



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 9

Winter 2007

Number 1

OFMA's Spring Technical Workshop *Build Up or Build Out: A River Runs Through It*

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association Spring Technical Workshop is right around the corner! This year's workshop offers a unique chance to learn about and view a major river development on the Oklahoma River in Oklahoma City. Communities throughout the United States are thinking about urban river developments as a way to attract people who enjoy living within the natural beauty of a water environment. Taking a comprehensive approach to urban river development has allowed Oklahoma City to revitalize areas within the City and attract new development in a safe and sustainable manner. Subjects like the Oklahoma River Project are of interest to others besides floodplain managers. Elected Officials, City Managers, Building Code Officers, City Staff, Insurance Agents and Private Sector Professionals can all benefit by attending. The workshop will be held March 1st at the Moore-Norman Technology Center in Moore, OK. The workshop features a bus-and-walking tour of the river development and lock facilities. This tour will provide you with first-hand knowledge of what these developments look like. You also will learn details about the process of evaluating and permitting an urban river development. The morning training sessions on Community Development processes, Basic Training for Floodplain Administrators, GIS training and implementation and an afternoon river tour provide a varied and timely array of subjects. Lt. Gov. Jari Askins will be the Keynote Speaker addressing the Workshop during the provided lunch. Conference registration is \$45 per member and \$75 per non-member of OFMA. Each Workshop attendee will be awarded 6 Continuing Education Credits to put towards certification requirements. Reduced room rates are available at the Holiday Inn Norman for those who need them. For more information or registration materials, visit www.okflood.org and look for Upcoming Events. Fax your registration before the deadline to (918) 669-7546. The registration deadline is scheduled for February 15th so do not delay!



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Talk to your Legislators!



The 10th Annual OFMA Legislative Reception will be held Wednesday, March 7th from 11am-2pm in Room 512A of the State Capitol, 2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City. All members are encouraged to come visit their state senators and legislators to share experiences as floodplain managers trying to reduce the loss of life and property to flooding in Oklahoma. Previous receptions have exceeded 300 visitors so a large turn out is anticipated. As in the past few years, Jamil's Steakhouse of Oklahoma City will cater the event providing an additional bonus for legislators and legislative staff to stop by. OFMA Board members will be on hand to greet visitors and introduce themselves as resources for legislators who may want to know more about floodplain management, flood insurance or simple drainage issues related to flooding and drought conditions. OFMA will have its booth set up with informational pieces to leave with the legislators. For more information on the upcoming event, visit www.okflood.org.

Comments from the Chair

Greetings -

This winter has been extremely difficult on Oklahoma communities and the season is not over yet. As I listen to weather reports and news from McAlester, Muskogee, and other communities left without power after the ice storm, I wonder how many Oklahoma towns and cities will go through a financial problem like the one New Orleans is experiencing due to ice or flooding. A January 19th Associated Press article talks about New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin complaining that his city is not getting the Federal disaster money he says it deserves and needs to rebuild bridges, streets, sewers and other infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. A Homeland Security official is quoted as saying the city is due nearly \$600 million, but city workers have not requested it.



The reporter didn't come right out and say it, but based on what I've learned about Public Assistance for disasters from my OFMA training, I'm assuming that New Orleans employees did not document the overtime, equipment, and supplies it used to respond to the Katrina tragedy. It is much easier to appoint someone to keep track of these expenses during the event than try to recreate what was done months or years after the event has passed. Without documentation and properly filed request forms to FEMA, Federal dollars are virtually impossible to obtain.

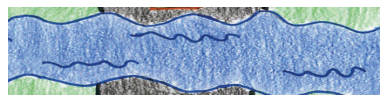
Having public officials who know the procedures to follow during a potential disaster such as an ice storm or flood will save Oklahoma communities thousands, maybe millions of dollars in Federal disaster aid. Add this benefit to a reduction in loss of life and property. It is clear that educating floodplain managers and keeping them up-to-date on state and national concerns is of vital interest to our citizens.

To OFMA members who are reading this, I urge you to attend the Spring Technical Workshop in Midwest City on March 1. Those of you who are casual readers, please give a thought to getting more involved in protecting your community this year by attending the OFMA spring session, the OFMA 17th Annual Conference in Tulsa this fall, or an OWRB workshop in your area. The calendar in this newsletter provides details, or visit www.okflood.org.

In a related matter, now is the time to start planning for a project that will reduce or eliminate future flooding in your community. We expect Federal money will become available due to the snow and ice storms and, contrary to popular opinion that says the money can only be used to buy snowplows or ice scrapers, communities can use the funds to buy repetitive loss properties or implement other flood mitigation measures. OFMA members will be notified when to apply for the grant money. If you are not a member yet, I urge you to join OFMA. You, your neighbors, your city or town, and your state will all benefit from your participation.

Laureen Gibson Gilroy, CFM

Turn Around Don't Drown Poster Contest Ends in April



The "Turn Around Don't Drown" poster contest is in full swing for 4th graders around the State of Oklahoma. Winning submissions have once again been incorporated into the OFMA Calendars for 2007. Students can find more information about this flood awareness campaign on the National Weather Service web site at: www.srh.noaa.gov/tadd/. Notification of the local floodplain manager is all that is needed when the posters are complete and ready for pick up. OFMA will award certificates of appreciation to all participants and cash prizes to statewide winners. Floodplain managers looking to promote participation in the event are encouraged to visit class rooms to discuss the dangers of flooding. A short video entitled "The Hidden Danger, Low-Water Crossings" can be ordered from the National Weather Service for free to assist with class room presentations. Simply visit www.nws.noaa.gov/om/water/Ahps-resources.shtml for details on how to order. Remember, the deadline for entries into this year's contest is April. Stay tuned to the BFE or visit www.okflood.org for updates on this year's winners and to view winners from last year's contest.

Basic Training for Floodplain Administrators Visits Ponca City

In 2004, the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association established The OFMA Training Cadre to assist with the development and presentation of free floodplain management training at a regional level. The 2-hour "*Basic Training for Floodplain Administrators*" course developed by the Training Cadre covers the basics of what a local floodplain administrator (FPA) should know to perform their job. In December 2006, OFMA Vice-Chair Bill Smith visited Ponca City for the first official presentation of the Cadre's training material to a group of local citizens and public officials. The attendees had various backgrounds and included public citizens, licensed realtors, insurance agents, architectural and lending professionals as well as the Ponca City Floodplain Board. Nearby city and tribal government representatives were also in attendance. According to Mr. Smith, "(the training) will help those in your communities to understand what a Floodplain Administrator is supposed to do".



OFMA Vice-Chair Bill Smith presents floodplain management concepts to an audience in Ponca City.

The meeting took place during the scheduled planning commission and lasted an entire two hours. Mike Chapman, the Assistant City Engineer and recent CFM designate organized the event. The Cadre's approach to the training is to bring various groups of citizens and public officials together from within a County or regional area to experience various floodplain management basics including administration and enforcement. Attendees learned about various floodplain management activities and requirements as they related to their profession including the real estate and insurance standpoint. Legal information on topics including the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, supplied to the Cadre by Dean Lee of the OWRB, was also very helpful to several of the participants. They received information on further training opportunities such as the OWRB 101 and 202 classes and were each given a 2007 OFMA Calendar as well as OFMA and Insurance Commission Certificates for 2 CEC's.

OFMA is very proud of the commitment Vice-Chair Bill Smith has made to the Training Cadre's mission. Thanks to his efforts, OFMA is becoming recognized as a leading Association in its efforts to educate and indoctrinate all Floodplain Administrators and others involved in floodplain management issues. The Training Cadre is currently making plans to visit the City of Enid, Blaine County and Wagoner County in the coming months ahead. If you feel your area's community officials, realtors, lending and insurance agents could benefit from receiving this training, please contact your OFMA Regional Representative. They would appreciate speaking further with you and helping to assist the coordination of the meeting and its attendees. Remember, CEC's are available including accredited Insurance Commission Certificates.



Is This Your Last Issue of The B.F.E.?

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association wants to keep each of you in our floodplain "loop" of information, especially with The B.F.E. That is why we encourage everyone who does not receive an email notification of the newsletter to contact The B.F.E. Editor or the OFMA Treasurer at the contact information found on page 12 with an updated email address. The email address can be from your professional or personal accounts. We will use the information to notify you that the latest edition is ready. We ask this because OFMA will no longer produce the quarterly twelve-page hardcopy version of The B.F.E. in the quantity previously done in the past. Many organizations like ours have effectively transitioned from paper to some form of electronic communication. By saving postal and printing costs, we expect this change to free up funds for additional member services. We know your time is valuable and our goal is to promote floodplain awareness and pass along critical floodplain management information in a timely, yet concise manner. I hope you enjoy becoming familiar with the electronic copies, which can be downloaded and printed with ease. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome at any time.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program Update

Funding for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program has been revamped following a November 2006 Congressional session. Overall, the PDM grants have been increased to \$100 million, effectively doubling their 2006 appropriation level of \$50 million. Competitive grants available through the program are used for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. Appropriate mitigation projects reduce the overall risks to populations and structures, thereby reducing the dependence on federal funding from an actual disaster declaration. A further enhancement has been added to the program funding mechanism. Because the PDM Program is now subject to Section 203(f) of the Stafford Act, each State will be allotted \$500,000 from the overall funds. This means a portion of the highly competitive grants are assured to reach every state meeting the minimum eligibility requirement thereby creating a more predictable level of funding for states. However, States must submit eligible and completed sub-applications for at least that amount in order to receive the allotment and meet additional requirements subject to the program. All remaining projects will compete on a national level for the remaining \$75 million.



Applying proper mitigation techniques during development kept this home from seeing the fate of its neighbors after disaster struck.

As part of the requirements for grant money, all applicants must have a FEMA-approved State/tribal Standard or Enhanced hazard mitigation plan by the application deadline to be eligible to receive project grant funding under the PDM. In addition, all Sub-applicants must have a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan by the application deadline to be eligible to receive project grant funding under the PDM program. Projects submitted for consideration must be consistent with the goals and objectives identified in the current FEMA approved State and Local mitigation plans. Planning activities can include the development, update or review of existing plans. Mitigation projects can include, but are not limited to the acquisition, relocation or elevation of flood prone properties, construction of safe rooms, engineering studies for the purpose of feasibility determination, protective measures for utilities, localized flood control projects designed to protect critical facilities, and the purchase of a generator if it directly relates to the hazards that threaten a critical facility. Applications must be received by the FEMA Regional Director on or before February 5, 2007. The guidance and program descriptions are available at <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pdm/fy2007.shtm>.

Introducing EDDie — Express Document Delivery for FEMA Flood Information

EDDie (Express Document Delivery) made its debut at this year's annual Association of State Floodplain Managers conference in June. EDDie is the latest enhancement to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Map Service Center (MSC) website. Designed to bypass the website's check-out (e-commerce) pages, EDDie enables exempt and partially exempt customers to quickly access and download Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), Flood Insurance Study (FIS) reports, Letters of Map Change (LOMCs), and Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) databases (where available) for all identified National Flood Insurance Program communities. Exempt customers include federal, State, and local government agencies; floodplain managers; FEMA staff; and FEMA contractors. EDDie is not available for those customers who are required to pay for products on the MSC website.

EDDie can be accessed from the Internet at <http://edd.msc.fema.gov/edd/> or as a link from the MSC website if you are logged in as an exempt customer. An icon will appear on the toolbar at the top of the page. From the main page of EDDie, users are prompted to enter the same user name and password that they use to log into the MSC website. Once logged in, user-friendly searches can be conducted for a variety of map products such as FIRMs, FIS reports, or DFIRM databases by either item number (e.g., 240010IND0) or by using pull-down menus to search by State, county, and community. Additionally, LOMCs are viewable when searching for FIRMs. Filters are also available to make searching for products more user-friendly. When a community and product are identified, the user has the option of viewing the product (if a FIRM, LOMC, or FIS report is selected) or saving the product to his or her computer.

To expedite the downloading of multiple products (i.e. bulk downloads), EDDie has been designed to work with the *GetRight* download manager software. This software is configured to work with EDDie and has been approved to work on all FEMA systems. *GetRight* allows users to quickly download multiple products from EDDie to their computer without having to manually download one product at a time. Entire counties, for example, can be downloaded at once. The software also allows users to schedule the time to download products allowing downloads after hours. The MSC time trials suggest that EDDie works between four to five times faster than downloading most products from the e-commerce version of the MSC website. The MSC has received very positive feedback from users and has witnessed a steady increase in EDDie usage each month. To obtain a user name and password or to get additional information about EDDie, contact the MSC Customer Service Department at 1-800-358-9616. This process only takes a few moments and can be ready for use within 30 minutes.



Community Rating System Updates

Oklahoma Community Improves CRS Class Status

Congratulations to the City of Sand Springs for their recent promotion in the CRS Program to a Class 6 Community. The dedication of their Floodplain Administrator and past OFMA Chair T.J. Davis has allowed this community to move up two rankings from its previous ranking as a Class 8. According to Mr. Davis, the City's acquisition of 28 flood prone and repetitive loss properties played a major role in the point totals. Among other things, Mr. Davis also credits the recently improved ISO Certification received by the Building Inspection Department as having allowed the ranking to surpass a Class 7. Citizens of the City of Sand Springs now receive a 20% discount on their flood insurance premiums and are now the 2nd highest ranked CRS community in Oklahoma! Congratulations and job well done!



TJ Davis (right) and Mayor Bob Walker (left) accept the Class 6 CRS Award from Carl Watts (center) of FEMA.

A CRS First! Community Earns a Class 1

The Community Rating System has some tough requirements, making advancement in the program a difficult process. Of course, advancement in the program means rewarding discounts to Flood Insurance Premiums, so logically FEMA would make it difficult. For as long as most of us can remember, our State's own City of Tulsa has lead the nation in the CRS rankings, becoming the first ever community to reach a Class 2 and receive a 40% flood insurance discount. Now however, officially verified during the Fall of 2006, Roseville, California, a community of 100,000, surpassed Tulsa and every other community in the nation to reach a CRS Class 1 making the community eligible for a 45% discount on its citizen's flood insurance premiums. Beginning in 1991, the City reached a Class 8 status having advanced its floodplain management program as a response to the devastating floods of 1986 and 1995. Since then, Roseville has used a combination of techniques to manage its flood hazards, including prohibiting development in the 100-year floodplain, a two-foot freeboard requirement, mitigating repetitive loss properties, using cluster development, substantial investment in improved stormwater management, acquiring and relocating floodprone structures, and protecting and restoring open space. Roseville has implemented 17 of the 18 activities recognized under the CRS as contributing to flood loss reduction.

Resource Center for CRS Communities

As a component of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Emergency Management Institute provides training on a variety of emergency management topics to enhance the capabilities of disaster response, preparedness and recovery. To assist communities participating in the voluntary Community Rating System, the Institute has developed the Community Rating System Resource Center website in hopes of assisting communities with guidance on the NFIP program.

Participation in the CRS program requires a community to follow specific procedures and appropriately document activities in order to calculate their credit points. Because participation in the CRS program creates community benefits beyond simply participating only in the NFIP, FEMA is actively pursuing strategies to assist communities with their CRS program. The Community Rating System Resource Center is just such a strategy. Located at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CRS/>, the Resource Center provides guidance on a variety of topics including the applications process, the creditable activities within the program and links to additional tools for use. The site is user friendly and is a likely asset to any community involved in the Community Rating System Program.



The CRS Resource Center home page is easily navigated and full of helpful information.

Ice Storm 2007

Statewide Hazard puts Emergency Operations to Test

On Friday, January 12, 2007 the State of Oklahoma was impacted by a strong Arctic cold front bringing with it, widespread precipitation in the form of freezing rain and sleet. Over the following 48 hours, additional freezing rain continued to fall across the State bringing national headlines on the brutal storm. Ice accumulations covered roadways, shut down schools, canceled flights and affected power supplies across the entire state. An emergency disaster declaration for all 77 Oklahoma counties was requested by Governor Henry and approved by President Bush on January 14th. The emergency declaration covers federal assistance for federal assets necessary for the response needs of the state and communities affected by the ice storm. In addition, the declaration also covers 75 percent reimbursement for emergency protective measures performed by local and state personnel. A major disaster declaration has been requested by the Governor for 23 counties, which would make individual assistance for storm victims available. Only 7 counties were approved however.



Damages to power utilities near Porum in Haskell County.

To assure continued medical services in those areas of the state hardest hit by the weekend's ice storm, the Oklahoma State Department of Health activated the Medical Reserve Corps. Volunteer medical personnel were dispatched to the McAlester Regional Hospital and medical supplies, including oxygen, were distributed to several hospitals in southeastern and northeastern Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Emergency Management (OEM) and FEMA worked to deliver more than 870,000 one-liter bottles of drinking water to communities impacted by the storm. Bottled water continued to arrive at staging locations in McAlester, Muskogee, Jay, Miami and Pryor long after the storm was over.

OEM, Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), Oklahoma National Guard, FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers delivered more than 125 generators to water treatment plants, shelter and hospitals, police and fire departments and organizations supporting shelter activities.



Ice damage to a power sub-station from the January storm.

Joint preliminary damage assessment teams, made up of representatives of OEM, FEMA, and county and city officials, began damage surveys in the affected areas of Delaware, McIntosh, Muskogee and Pittsburg counties. Initial damage assessments were completed in those four hardest hit counties.

Power outages resulting from the ice accumulations overloading power poles and utility lines affected over 100,000 customers of PSO, OG&E and the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives combined. McAlester and Muskogee, with their larger populations, had the highest reports of power outages. Other communities including Grove, Chouteau and Checotah also saw significant power outages.

According to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) and the Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, since the winter weather system first impacted the state, there were 26 deaths attributed to the storm including 16 motor vehicle accidents, 7 hypothermia cases, 2 smoke inhalation cases and 1 fall. Over 3,000 people were treated at Oklahoma hospitals for various injuries related to the weather according to the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH). Poor road conditions since the storm contributed to 495 automobile collisions on Oklahoma highways according to OHP.

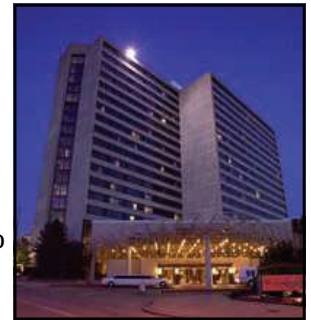
After the storm, temperatures wavered along the freezing mark for the following week allowing ice to develop a slick cover and a thick base. Neighborhoods resembled frozen ponds and communities struggled to remove the thick ice layers from roadways, causing shortages to sand and salt stock piles.

County Revises Floodplain Permitting Fees

Canadian County has been involved in several floodplain management issues in the last year. It is safe to say, they take their floodplains seriously and strive to keep development and a lack of understanding from possibly jeopardizing the safety of its citizens and their property. Now, in order to fully accommodate their time to successfully assist with the permitting process of a floodplain development, a new floodplain permitting fee schedule has been implemented by the Canadian County Commissioners at the recommendation of the Canadian County Floodplain Board. Previously, Canadian County had a \$100 “across the board” floodplain permit fee for any zoning type. The county’s floodplain board decided to revise the permit fee structure to more accurately reflect the time spent by County staff on assisting with the permitting process. The fee structure is now on more of a “sliding scale” according to County Floodplain Administrator Amy Brandley. Although the residential floodplain permit fee will remain at \$100, fees will change for other permits. The changes to costs of the revised permitting fees include non-residential and non-commercial (\$50), commercial (\$250), multi-family residential (\$500) and oil and gas (\$500). The Canadian County Flood Board, chaired by Cecil R. Bearden, recommended the resolution to the three county commissioners and signed it following their approval. The Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act and state law allow counties to charge no more than \$500 for a floodplain permit.

OFMA’s 17th Annual Conference: *It Will Rain Again, It Will Flood Again*

Planning is underway for this year’s Annual Conference! As always, OFMA is planning for some interesting and special guest speakers, great food, great entertainment and plenty of time for interaction with your peers. Understandably, in times of drought, floodplain management is not the top priority in most municipal governments, but it is the best time to perform routine maintenance on the creeks and drainage features because it will rain again, and it will flood again! The Annual Conference will again follow the three track approach with emphasis on introductory, intermediate and advanced floodplain management training concepts. Plan to attend and register early. The Conference will be held in downtown Tulsa at the Doubletree Hotel from September 16—19, 2007. OFMA has secured blocks of rooms at discounted rates for both single (\$68 + tax) and double (\$88 + tax) rooms. The OFMA Annual Conference provides a unique opportunity for company exposure to key officials from communities throughout the state. OFMA wishes to cordially invite potential vendors to attend and exhibit at this year’s Annual Conference. The cost for Vendor Booth Registration is only \$250. Conference Sponsorships are also available for those who may not be able to attend, but wish to support OFMA’s mission of reducing loss of life and property due to flooding. Conference Registration dues for attendees will vary depending on the conference package chosen and your membership status. For more information on costs contact Carolyn Schultz at (918) 669-4919 or visit www.okflood.org. We look forward to hearing from you! Space is limited so reserve your hotel room soon! For room reservation information visit www.doubletree.com.



Tulsa’s Downtown Doubletree



Question: Should a proposed development that clearly poses a potential threat to life and property, be required to be evaluated to a higher standard than the current effective adopted floodplain regulations of a community?

Answer: There are strict legal issues/guidelines that a community must abide by in regulating their floodplain development as adopted by their city ordinance or county resolution. However, there should be opportunities for the floodplain administrator, floodplain board, or city council to consider other factors that are not the norm for such situations. If language is not included in communities' ordinances or resolutions to examine and consider such specific and unique situations, it is recommended that some type of language be added to the ordinance or resolution to allow consideration of extreme circumstances.

Web Sites

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

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **Floodplain 101:** Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800; website www.owrb.state.ok.us
- **Floodplain 202:** March 6, 2007 McAlester; March 20, 2007 Lawton; March 27, 2007 OKC; March 29, 2007 Woodward. Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800; online registration: www.owrb.state.ok.us/util/commentsFP.php
- **OML Water Summit:** Feb. 16, 2007; Oklahoma Regional Training Institute website registration @ www.oml.org
- **OFMA Spring Technical Workshop:** March 1, 2007. Moore-Norman Technology Center; Moore, OK www.okflood.org
- **OFMA Legislative Reception:** March 7th 2007; Capital Building Room 512-A 10:30-2:00 Oklahoma City, OK.
- **Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors Annual Convention:** March 8-10, 2007
- **FEMA's Annual National Flood Conference:** April 29—May 3, 2007; Denver, Colorado. Sponsored by the NFIP; website: www.fema.gov/business/nfip/natl_fldconf.shtm
- **ASFPM 31st Annual Conference:** June 3-7, 2007; Norfolk, VA. www.floods.org
- **National Hydrological Warning Council National Conference:** June 11-14, 2007; Savannah, GA. [Http://nhwc.udfcd.org](http://nhwc.udfcd.org)
- **OML Annual Conference:** September 11-13, 2007 - www.oml.org
- **OFMA 17th Annual Conference:** September 16-19, 2007, Double Tree Hotel Downtown, Tulsa, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.
- **ASFPM 32nd Annual Conference:** May 18-23, 2008; Reno, NV. www.floods.org

OFMA General Store

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

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

Or call Carolyn Schultz (918) 669-4919



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

Shipping and handling \$4.95 per order.

The OFMA 2006 Strategic Planning Retreat

The OFMA Board of Directors lead by Chair Laureen Gilroy spent three days in Norman during November to review the Association's Strategic Plan and review our By Laws and Constitution. The 2006 Strategic Planning Retreat was held at the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education and was attended by OFMA members Joe Remondini, PDCC Chair, Marc Utley, Mapping and Engineering Committee Chair and OFMA Corporate Sponsor, Theresa Painter, Education Chair, Sterling Overturf, BFE Editor and Ken Morris, Interim Executive Director. The Board held a Board meeting during the retreat and conducted monthly business as well. The OFMA Board members that participated in the 2006 Planning Retreat included Carolyn Schultz, Bill Smith, Ellen Stephens, Phil Beauchamp, Leslie Lewis, Jeff Bigby, Mickey Douglas & Gavin Brady, NFIP State Coordinator.

Chairman Gilroy facilitated the retreat and kept Board members on track to address each goal and objective outlined in the 2006 Strategic Plan. Details of the Retreat Outcome will be published in the near future. The Board also found several issues in the By Laws and Constitution that will need to be addressed at the next membership conference or workshop. More information will be provided soon about the proposed changes. During the retreat the State experienced a severe winter storm, however with most members staying at the Sooner Hotel and not having to drive, the weather did not impact the retreat itself. However, with the roads so bad, many members spent an extra night on Thursday hoping the travel situation would improve. By Friday, conditions were still poor, but had stopped deteriorating, making for a long and slow trip back to their homes. With the snow, ice and cold temperatures, Board members and OFMA leaders were in a captive setting to get our association business concluded in a very professional and expeditious manner.

For more information about the Retreat Outcome visit the OFMA web site at www.okflood.org and stay tuned to upcoming BFE Newsletters.

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

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

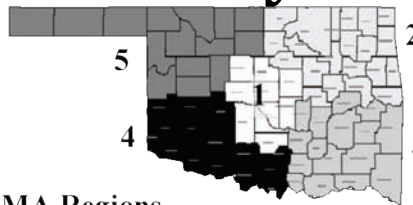
Mission

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

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

An Invitation to Join OFMA

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



OFMA Regions

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

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Detach and Mail to:

OFMA

P.O. Box 8101

Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

New Member: ☐

Renewal: ☐

Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

Committees:

___ Mitigation

___ Mapping and Engineering

___ Education/Legislative

___ Certification

___ Conference

Dues Schedule:

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

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



Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Gavin Brady, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator

As you probably know, past NFIP State Coordinator, Mike Mathis, retired from the OWRB in November. Preceding Mike in that position was Ken Morris, who retired in 2003. As Mike's replacement, I am fortunate to have learned much from two of the most influential and experienced leaders of Oklahoma's floodplain management program. Their past accomplishments make my current job easier. As the new State Floodplain Coordinator, I obviously have very big shoes to fill. Fortunately, I can draw upon the expertise of OWRB staff and utilize the exemplary leadership of the Oklahoma Floodplain Manager's Association (OFMA) to accomplish the organization's goals and objectives.

Concerning my professional background, I began my employment with the OWRB in Oklahoma City in 1982. I transferred to the Tulsa field office soon after the 1984 Memorial Day floods that devastated Tulsa. Since that time, I have worked closely with the NFIP and have coordinated floodplain management-related efforts in the state's northeast region. I look forward to working with *all* of Oklahoma as the new State Coordinator.

During a recent two-day retreat at the University of Oklahoma, the OFMA Board of Directors and several Committee Chairs met to review our 2006 Strategic Plan and update OFMA's Bylaws and Constitution. OFMA Chairman Laureen Gilroy facilitated the retreat and completed our objectives, even as a snowstorm blanketed the facility and closed the OU campus. You can view the results of the retreat at www.okflood.org and/or read the next BFE Newsletter in February.

As we look to the new year, please mark your calendars for a few important dates. The weeklong NFIP class, January 8-12, is currently full. However, if you want to get on the waiting list, we can accommodate you. The Floodplain Administrators 101 Workshop dates are February 15, March 14, April 19 and May 15 at the Center for Continuing Education at OU. With Governor Henry's Declaration of March 2007 as Flood Insurance Month, our training staff will take the show on the road and hold workshops in McAlester on March 6, Lawton on March 20, Bartlesville on March 22, and Woodward on March 29. Thanks to our partnership with Joe Remondini and the Corps of Engineers, 202 Workshops will also be held in March at these same locations. Also, a 202 Workshop will be held on March 27 in Oklahoma City at the OWRB office. Plenty of opportunities to expand your floodplain management knowledge and you can register online at www.owrb.state.ok.us or call Rhonda Bowers at 405-530-8800.

With the exception of some flooding in Broken Arrow and Wagoner County, 2006 has been a year when floodplain administrators could take a relatively relaxed approach to floodplain management. This has been a year where your thoughts and activities were more focused on a lack of rainfall rather than too much. I have visited areas in Oklahoma where lake levels are approaching critical stages and I realize floodplain management may not be at the forefront of the minds of city, county, or tribal officials. But as floodplain administrators, we can't forget the value of this program. We are in a position to make a difference. The primary emphasis in establishing the NFIP back in 1968 was to provide flood insurance to flood-prone communities. We need to remember we are also protecting the lives and property of Oklahoma citizens. It will flood again...are you ready?

OWRB Workshops Tour the State in March!

This March local and county floodplain administrators will be offered a free chance at receiving accredited education at six convenient locations around the State. Floodplain 101 and 202 are designed to take floodplain administrators through introductory and advanced topics on NFIP compliance requirements and provide assistance on guidance to floodplain development. The OWRB, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management will sponsor the six one-day workshops. Each workshop attendee will receive 6 Continuing Education Credits, which can be applied toward maintaining CFM status. Contact Rhonda Bowers at the OWRB at (405) 530-8800 to register or visit www.okflood.org for dates and more information.



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The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 9

Spring 2007

Number 2

Recapping OFMA's Spring Technical Workshop *A River Runs Through It — Build Up or Build Out*

If you missed this year's OFMA Spring Conference, then you missed a valuable opportunity to better understand how urban planning and water resources are blending sustainable development with natural esthetics into attractive public resources. The Spring Technical Workshop, "**A River Runs Through It – Build Up or Build Out**" was held in Oklahoma City this year at the Moore-Norman Technology Center. Members of OFMA were treated to several special events including a guided field trip through the newly developed area known as The Oklahoma River and an exclusive luncheon keynote address from Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins. Participants in the Technical Workshop were also offered the chance to hear constructive floodplain related presentations on community development, GIS and Floodplain Administrator activities.



Spring Technical Workshop participants toured several of the new dams along the Oklahoma River in Oklahoma City.



This year's OFMA Spring Technical Workshop was organized to get the most out of the single day session. The morning agenda opened with a greeting from Chair Gilroy and included a Community Assistance Program (CAP) summary discussion from our State NFIP Coordinator Gavin Brady. The morning events also included floodplain management presentations in two tracks to choose from. The first session offered participants a choice between attending a track featuring a Community Development Workshop or Basic GIS for Floodplain

Bill Smith presents Lt. Gov. Jari Askins with a framed print of the 2007 Annual Conference Logo.

(Continued on page 6)

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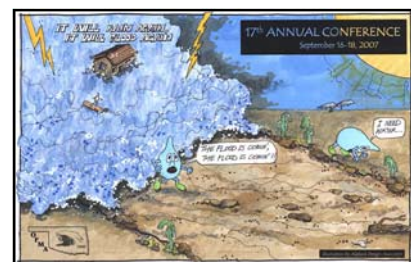
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OFMA's Annual Conference is Nearing!

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association's Annual Conference is gearing up to be quite a special event! This year's conference, entitled "It Will Rain Again, It Will Flood Again" will be held in downtown Tulsa at the Doubletree Hotel on September 17-19. Reduced room rates are available, but the reservations must be made by August 15, 2007 in order to receive the discount.

This year's conference will have four concurrent tracks to choose from. Each is designed to offer something beneficial no matter what your experience level with floodplain management is. Early bird registration for the Conference ends August 15th so get your registration turned in soon. As always, the OFMA Golf Tournament will be held the Sunday before the Conference at the Canyons of Black Jack Ridge in Sand Springs. To view the special Conference Logo and receive more information on registration, visit www.okflood.org.



IT WILL RAIN AGAIN,
IT WILL FLOOD AGAIN!

Comments from the Chair

Greetings –

Those of us in the field of floodplain management know how hard the folks at FEMA work to protect lives and properties from flooding. We know that our friends at FEMA Region VI spent months away from their families in order to assist state and local responses to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. FEMA employees in other regions are equally dedicated public servants, tirelessly working on our behalf for low pay and very little gratitude, if any.

I know what FEMA employees do. That is why it is so hard for me to ignore it when politicians blame FEMA for mistakes made in recent years since 9/11. It is especially difficult when the politician is Senator Joe Lieberman (I-Connecticut) – the man who was largely responsible for taking away FEMA's independent status and shoving the agency into the Department of Homeland Security.



On April 13, the Washington Post published a story about how truckloads of food that FEMA had stockpiled last year in case of another bad hurricane season had rotted in warehouses because FEMA ran out of proper storage space. According to the article, Lieberman said, "I am angry about this senseless waste of taxpayer money and hopeful that the FEMA reorganization that our committee recommended . . . will put an end to screw-ups like this." Well, Senator, your committee still leaves FEMA in the bureaucratic giant known as the Department of Homeland Security and 700 positions remain unfilled at the agency, so how do you expect the screw-ups to end? How is the agency going to find people to work for it when senators who should be providing funds for FEMA, instead blame and criticize the employees every chance they get?

Yes, the spoiled food was a waste of taxpayers' money, but so is paying homeowners millions of dollars to rebuild on parcels below sea level. When the disaster is big enough (meaning a lot of voters are affected) the politicians ignore the expert advice of floodplain managers. Instead of encouraging people to rebuild smarter and, thus, prevent future disasters, our elected leaders act quickly in front of the TV cameras to put people right back in harm's way. That is a much larger screw-up, Senator! Shame on you!

With that off my chest, I wish to thank our Vice Chair Bill Smith and his conference committee for putting on such a great spring workshop in Midwest City March 1. Things are changing fast in the floodplain management arena, but educational opportunities such as the workshop and our annual conference will help you keep up.

It's not too early to start making plans for our annual conference in Tulsa September 16-19. Go to our website www.okflood.org for details. Like the FEMA employees, our Association's volunteers go above and beyond the call of duty. We can all be proud of what we are trying to accomplish. Our mission statement says it best:

We encourage and support, with our partners, flood safe development and flood mitigation. We promote sound floodplain management practices and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain. We support the floodplain management profession through education and certification. Saving lives and reducing property loss from floods are our ultimate goals!

- Laureen Gibson Gilroy, CFM



ASFMP Considers NFIP Reform Strategies and a BIGGER Paradigm Shift

After the catastrophic disasters of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) suffered its first ever financial crisis. The total payouts for that year were greater than the combination of all previous payouts from 1968-2004. Due to the extraordinarily large number of claims, the NFIP, which had previously remained self sustainable in funding, quickly ran through all of its funds. On Nov. 14, 2005, the acting head of the NFIP sent a letter to all FEMA approved WYO insurance providers informing them that they should stop paying all claims on flood policies until further notice. The backlash is still being felt throughout the insurance community. Consider that Allstate and State Farm are no longer writing new home insurance policies in the several coastal states regularly hit by hurricanes and increasing existing rates for fear of future disaster payouts. So has the NFIP failed? It was not originally designed by Congress to cover catastrophic losses, yet is our nation's primary mechanism to counter flood risks.

Today 1/3 of the \$2 billion in premiums collected by the NFIP is going towards repaying the interest on its new debt. The inability of the program's capacity to handle flooding catastrophes like the Gulf Coast in 2005 has instigated an NFIP reform bill within

(Continued on page 4)

Canadian County Recommends Oil and Gas Development Solution

The Floodplain Administrator and Floodplain Board Chair of Canadian County will be meeting with the Corporation Commission to solve a troubling issue facing their floodplain regulation program. The issue has stemmed from oil and gas development occurring in flood hazard areas within the County and the proposed solution may impact this type of development across the State.

The problem boils down to this: development sites for oil and gas often end up in regulatory floodplains without the knowledge of local floodplain administrators. Therefore, counties and communities that regulate oil and gas development in floodplains through a permitting process, such as Canadian County does, are left to find these sites on their own, usually after construction has begun. "Finding out halfway through drilling a site that they are in a floodplain and will need to fulfill special requirements is frustrating to say the least" says Amy Brandley, Floodplain Administrator for Canadian County. That is why she and Floodplain Board Chair Cecil Bearden have co-signed a letter sent to representatives at the Corporation Commission, the governing body overseeing such development.



Oil & Gas development often finds its way into floodplains without the knowledge of local FPAs.

Their request is simple but effective, add a line to the "intent to drill" forms submitted to the Corporation Commission that requests identifying if the particular site is in the 1-Percent Chance (100-Year) Floodplain and to contact the local Floodplain Administrator for verification and questions. "By requiring oil and gas companies to be aware of the floodplain status of their sites, the Corporation Commission will be taking an important step to insure safe and responsible oil and gas production in our vulnerable flood hazard areas." Brandley notes there are additional actions that can help as well. Keeping effective FIRM maps in the County Clerks office and notifying the County Corporation Commission Inspector of flood maps and flood hazard areas may also help Oil & Gas developers with understanding where floodplains are located before

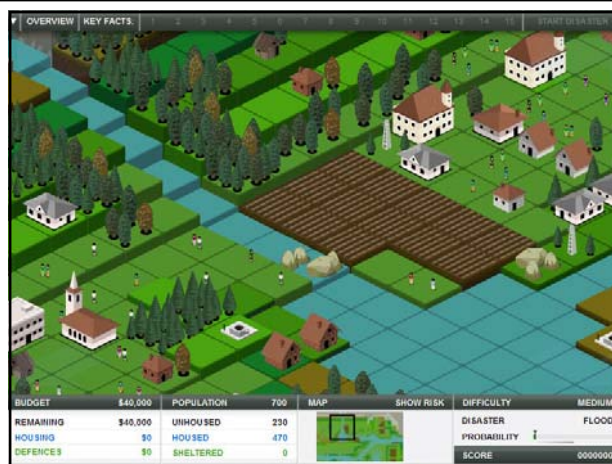
development occurs on leased lands.

Overall, this solution may allow local governments to properly regulate oil and gas companies while raising awareness about potential dangers of production and storage "in vulnerable flood-prone areas." The efforts of Amy Brandley, Cecil Bearden as well as Janelle Wood of Blaine County are to be commended and illustrate how fortunate Oklahoma's floodplain management program is for having such committed and creative problem solvers working towards the goals of flood safety and awareness for the people and property of Oklahoma. Great Job!

"Stop Disasters!" Game Teaches Players Disaster Mitigation Strategies

Disaster education is vital for reducing the future number of those killed or injured by disasters triggered by natural hazards. Teaching the children of today the importance of disaster mitigation will benefit society when they become the architects, mayors, doctors and parents of tomorrow. The on-line game "Stop Disasters!" brought to you by the UN's International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), aims at teaching children how to build safer villages and cities to protect against disasters. Children learn how the location and the construction materials of houses can make a difference when disasters strike and how early warning systems, evacuation plans and evacuation can save lives.

UN/ISDR produced the online game to engage and teach children, ages 9 to 16, how to protect cities and villages against natural hazards through disaster risk planning and management. The game stems from the 2006-07 World Disaster Reduction Campaign "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School". The online game includes five natural hazard scenarios (flooding, tsunami, wildfire, hurricane, and earthquake) with different levels of difficulty that require critical decision-making and strategic planning.



The online game "Stop Disasters!" provides 5 disaster scenarios and 3 levels of difficulty where players can use mitigation techniques to save lives and property before disaster strikes!

To access the game, please visit: www.stopdisastersgame.org and more on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction can be found here: www.unisdr.org/

(Continued from page 2)

Congress. However, since NFIP officials say the program currently has enough funds and borrowing authority to see it through the end of the year, any urgency about passing the bill this year seems to have been lost. Doing so has pushed various associations including the Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM) and the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC) to make reform recommendations on its behalf.

ASFPM provided bullet-point recommendations to Congress for the Reform Bill, but as Nelson Mandela once spoke: "It is one thing to find fault with an existing system. It is another thing altogether, to replace it with a better approach." ASFPM feels a larger, more substantial paradigm shift is needed, arguing that a change from the top-down model of flood risk management must be revised so that States become the focal point for managing flood risk. The logic is that the methods that will most effectively manage and reduce flood risk rely on authorities that are reserved to the States under our Constitution, namely land use management, building codes, and community planning for development, mitigation and resource protection. It is important to remember that the NFIP is not purely an insurance program but provides for mitigation and significant land use guidance through local flood ordinances. Currently, there are no incentives for states and locals to accept their responsibility to reduce flood risk. Even CRS communities, who go beyond minimum requirements, lack a true incentive; the rewards for their efforts go to individual residents who have flood insurance policies, not to the community or state.

ASFPM argues that programs which have delegated authority for decision making and funding to the States, such as the Clean Water Act and the federal highway programs, are the models for which the NFIP should emulate. Under these models, the state works with federal programs to reach agreement on the state-specific goals of the program, then designs the state program to achieve those goals. The program is not delegated to the state until appropriate state laws and capabilities are in place. Additionally, ASFPM advocates a sliding cost share to reward positive state actions. Disaster assistance payments could use something similar to the 75% federal, 25% state/local payouts, but could see a federal share increase as states undertake actions to reduce their risk to flooding and other natural hazards. For instance, as states invest in important flood risk activities, that amount of money could be "banked" toward the non-federal share of the next disaster. This way state legislators and governors can see the benefit of a "pay now or pay later" scenario, which is just one way to reward communities that do more.

The specific items ASFPM recommends including in the 2007 Reform include: Debt forgiveness, Map Mod extensions, funding increases and technical enhancements, extensions of mandatory insurance purchases in residual risk areas, some premium increases, provision to allow Demolish and Rebuild use under regular FMA, authority to require use of advisory maps for NFIP purposes, increased civil penalties on lending institution violations, FMA funding provisions, total expenditure of available FMA funds, removal or increase of the per State limits on Basic FMA and clarification of Congressional intent of the "direct" portion of repetitive loss programs. For more on the ASFPM recommendations visit

http://www.floods.org/PDF/ASFPM_NFIP_Reform_07_Recommendations_022007.pdf

The National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC) and its coalition partners have also come up with common-sense reforms they believe would be a substantial first step in reforming the program. Their list includes: provide funding for Map Modernization; increase annual elasticity band for premium increases to no higher than 15% maximum per year, consider increasing deductibles, increase coverage limits, consider creating a "Deluxe" flood insurance policy, inclusion of business interruption insurance as an option to commercial policies and require the GAO to study mandates and other issues.

For more on the NAMIC recommendations visit: <http://www.namic.org/pdf/060124NFIPConsensusReforms.pdf>



Comanche County Flash Flood Event Washes Away Roads and Bridges

Spring has unleashed some heavy rains in portions of Oklahoma. With those rains came some unwelcome results. The massive rainfall amounts Comanche County received in late March caused some county roads to be temporarily closed. The widespread damage has taken a toll on county employees and will continue to do so until the damages are fixed.

Staff from the Eastern and Western District barns spent many regular and overtime hours trying to fix roads washed out by the flash flooding. Eastern District County Commissioner Gail Turner says the District has lost a lot of rock and road surface. "We all needed the rain, but we have a lot of damage," says Turner. Comanche County's Eastern District still has three roads temporarily closed because they are impassable including a high-traffic, large concrete bridge. "We are encouraging everyone to slow down, be cautious and pay attention when they are driving. A lot of the roads are in bad condition and may be undermined," adds Turner.

The county's Western District experienced similar conditions as they had to close portions of two roads due to the amount of water flowing across the roadways. Those areas have been re-opened, but Western District foreman Darvin Smith says it will take them a couple weeks to get their roads back to normal. Smith adds they will be sending out crews to put up more permanent "low-water crossing" signs.

"This was just a quick flash flood event! The creeks flooded very quickly, and have receded very quickly too," says Comanche County Floodplain Administrator Chloe Lewis. Lewis also adds there is not much you can do to prepare in the event of a flash flood. She says the best thing people can do to avoid unnecessary damages from flash flood events is keep creek beds cleaned out and free of debris or things that may act like a dam and restrict the natural flow of water.



“IT WILL RAIN AGAIN “ “IT WILL FLOOD AGAIN”

Monday, September 17 – Wednesday September 19, 2007
Downtown Doubletree Hotel - Tulsa, OK

In times of drought, floodplain management is not the top priority in most municipal government, but it is the best time to perform routine maintenance on the creeks, drainage ditches, etc. because it will rain again, and it will flood again!

Our program this year will have four (4) concurrent tracks:

- ❖ Floodplain 101 Workshop – Sponsored and presented by OWRB
- ❖ Track 1 – Basic Training for New Floodplain Administrators/City Council, County Commissioners, Floodplain Board Members
- ❖ Track 2 – Intermediate Training for Experienced Floodplain Administrators, specifically oriented to your daily work efforts – CLOMR, LOMR, LOMA, Elevation Certificate Workshop, Permit Workshop, Development Coordination Workshop
- ❖ Track 3 – Special Issues for Engineering Consultants and Experienced Floodplain Administrators – GIS, HEC HMS, HEC RAS, Stormwater Quality Issues, Legal Issues, Etc.

Designed for anyone involved with floodplain issues:

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

Plan to attend, register early, reserve your hotel room(s), and participate. Anyone interested in submitting a presentation or technical paper, please contact:



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918-865-6977 Phone/Fax
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or
Philip Beauchamp, Region 4 Representative
City of Altus
(580) 481-2228
engineering@cityofaltus.org

OFMA has reserved rooms at Downtown Doubletree Hotel, 616 W 7th St., Tulsa, Oklahoma. Cost is just \$68 for Single, \$88 for Double plus tax per night.

1-800-838-7914 or <www.tulsadowntown.doubletree.com>

Reservations due no later than August 15, 2007. Mention you are with Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

Flood Insurance Policy Providers now Require NFIP Training

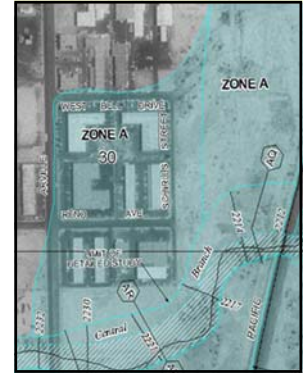
The Oklahoma Departments of Insurance is taking various actions to establish NFIP Flood Insurance training requirements as required by the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004. The ODI has posted a special notice in late March concerning the requirement and advises agents on approved NFIP Flood Training Courses. The NFIP encourages states to implement minimum training in NFIP flood insurance as part of their general licensing standards and to assist States in improving their training and testing of agents on flood insurance matters.

Section 207 of the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 (the "Act") requires all producers selling flood insurance policies under the NFIP to be properly trained and educated about the NFIP to ensure producers may best serve their clients.

The Act directs the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in cooperation with the insurance industry, state insurance regulators, and other interested parties, to establish minimum training and education requirements for all insurance producers who sell flood insurance policies. OFMA and FEMA are developing courses related to the NFIP that meet the requirements. An insurance producer who sells flood insurance may satisfy the minimum training and education requirements by completing a course related to the NFIP which has been approved for three hours of continuing education credit by the Oklahoma Insurance Department. The failure to comply with this continuing education requirement may jeopardize the producer's authority to write insurance through NFIP.

All Oklahoma licensed resident insurance producers who sell federal flood insurance policies must comply with the minimum training requirements of section 207 of the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 and basic flood education as outlined within the Act.

Approved NFIP Flood Training Courses are available on the OID website: www.oid.state.ok.us. From the Divisions and Programs section of the menu bar, click "Agent Licensing." Once on the Agents Licensing page, click "Special Notices."



New Flood Maps have tremendous implications for Oklahoma's insurance industry.

(Continued from page 1)

Management. The second session included a track on Basic Training for Floodplain Administrators and an Overview of Development on the North Canadian River from Meridian Road to Lake Overholser or a track on Advanced GIS for Floodplain Management. Discussions between presenters and the audience were very lively and informative within both tracks.



The Oklahoma River was diverted at three locations for construction of low water dams.

The afternoon portion of the Technical Workshop took participants on site visits along the Oklahoma River where river development and public recreation is being undertaken to properly coexist with the natural benefits of the floodplain. After hearing a presentation on the Oklahoma River Project from the OKC Public Works Department, participants of the Spring Technical Session boarded buses and vans to get an up close and personal look at the Lock and Dam system and hear from key staff about details of the project. The Oklahoma River is a 7-mile stretch of the North Canadian River in Oklahoma City that has been transformed into a series of river lakes bordered by landscaped areas, trails and recreational facilities at an estimated cost of \$53.5 million. Dams are located at Eastern, Western and May Avenues to raise the level of the river. Locks are in place at Western and May Avenues to allow boats to navigate the entire 7 mile length of the river project. Trails running the length of the Oklahoma River on the north and south banks are part of the OKC Trails network and are open for runners, walkers, skaters and bikers. Funding for the project came from the Metropolitan Area Projects, or MAPS program; a capital improvement program funded by a one-cent sales tax that was in effect for 66 months. Over \$309 million was collected from the tax and made available for projects like The Oklahoma River and the familiar Bricktown Canal as well as other sporting, recreational, entertainment, cultural and convention facility upgrades.

Congratulations OFMA on providing another fine educational and instructive Spring Technical Workshop!

Lenders Fined over NFIP Violations

Following the revision of flood statutes by the NFIRA in 1994, the NFIP and the FDPA authorized the FDIC and the FRB to impose civil money penalties for violations pertaining to the NFIA. Payments will be made to FEMA and the FIMA for deposit in the NFMF. The act requires that civil money penalties be imposed of up to \$350 for each violation in such cases.

The latest banks involved with the FDIC flood enforcement action and their civil money penalties are the Carroll County Trust Company (Carrollton, MO / \$2,075), Citizens Bank and Trust Company (Chillicothe, MO / \$10,800), and Midwest Community Bank (Plainville, KS / \$6,335). Those facing FRB enforcement actions are the Oregon Pacific Bank (Florence, OR / \$4,950), Pacific Mercantile Bank (Costa Mesa, CA), and Planters Bank and Trust Company (Staunton, VA / \$6,750).

Acronyms Used in the Lender Penalties Story

NFIRA = National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994

NFIP = National Flood Insurance Program

FDPA = Flood Disaster Protection Act

FDIC = Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

FRB = Federal Reserve Board

NFIA = National Flood Insurance Act

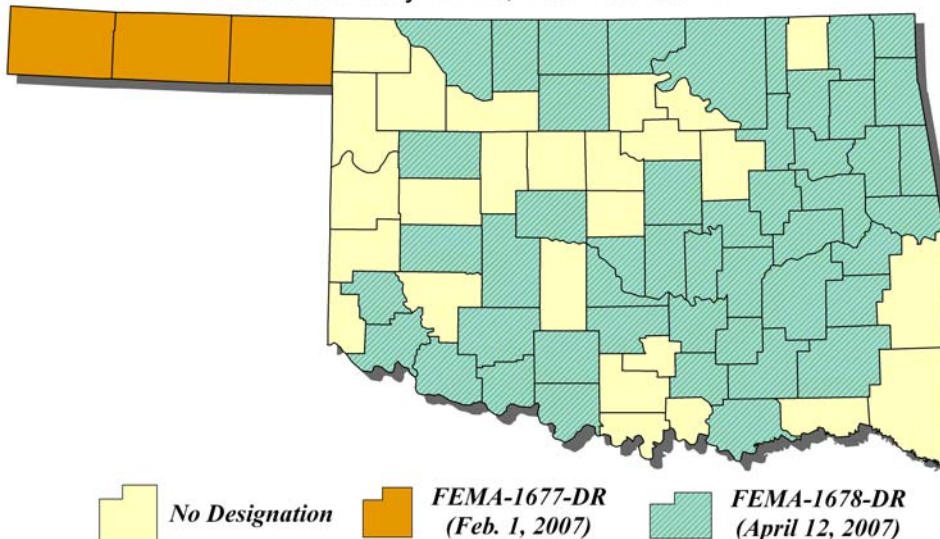
FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency

FIMA = Flood Insurance and Mitigation Administration

NFMF = National Flood Mitigation Fund

Public Assistance Counties

from the January 12-26, 2007 Ice Storm



Ice damages took their toll across the State in January 2007. Storm debris removal is still ongoing in many of the affected areas.



Question: I am a rancher who wants to build a small berm near a creek on my property. The County that my ranch is in participates in the NFIP. Do I need a floodplain development permit if the creek is in a Zone A floodplain?

Answer: Your County has adopted floodplain regulations in order to manage development within 100-year floodplains. These regulations are intended to prevent increased flooding and minimize future flood damages. Floodway and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are used to delineate the 100-year floodplain and identify regulated land. If the area you intend to build a berm on is in a 100-year floodplain, including 'Zone A' areas designated on a FIRM map, then a development permit must be applied for and approved before construction can commence. You may also be required to obtain a 404 Permit from the Corps of Engineers or a stormwater management permit from the ODEQ depending on other variables associated with the location and size of the berm.

Web Sites

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

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **Floodplain 101;** University of Oklahoma Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800
- **FEMA's Annual National Flood Conference;** April 29—May 3, 2007; Denver, Colorado. Sponsored by the NFIP; website: www.fema.gov/business/nfip/natl_fldconf.shtm
- **APWAOK & OWEA Technical Conference;** May 7—9, 2007; Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Rita Cavanaugh at 800.772.4678 or rita.cavanaugh@okstate.edu
- **2007 World Environmental and Water Resources Congress: Focus on Habitat Restoration;** May 15-19 2007; Tampa, Florida; Sponsor: ASCE: <http://content.asce.org/conferences>
- **ASFPM 31st Annual Conference;** June 3-7, 2007; Norfolk, VA. www.floods.org
- **7th Conference and Exposition of the National Hydrological Warning Council;** June 11-14, 2007; Savannah, GA. <http://nhwc.udfcd.org>
- **Hazards in Water Resources;** July 24-26, 2007; Boise, Idaho. Sponsors: UCWR & NIWR; www.ucowr.siu.edu
- **OML/MESO Annual Conference;** September 11-13, 2007; Tulsa - www.oml.org
- **OFMA 17th Annual Conference;** September 16-19, 2007, Double Tree Hotel Downtown, Tulsa, OK. Contact: OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; website: www.okflood.org.
- **Stronger Together: Annual Conference on Property Loss Reduction;** Nov. 8-9, 2007 Sponsor: Institute for Business and Home Safety website www.ibhs.org/congress
- **ASFPM 32nd Annual Conference;** May 18-23, 2008; Reno, NV. www.floods.org

OFMA General Store

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

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

Or call Carolyn Schultz (918) 669-4919



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

Shipping and handling \$4.95 per order.

Tulsa Home and Garden Show

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association was represented at the Tulsa Home and Garden Show for the third year in a row through the sponsorship of HISINC, L.L.C. The OFMA representation at the show is a Mitigation Committee project for floodplain awareness education directed towards the general public. The show was held from March 8 to March 11, 2007 at the Tulsa County Expo Square in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Many people stopped by the booth to learn about floodplain management from OFMA volunteers. The Corps of Engineers Riverine Flood Model provided a good visual interpretation for educational discussions with the general public. Our thanks to the OFMA volunteers who helped run the booth - Bill Smith - Vice Chair, Joe Remondini - PDCC Chair, Gavin Brady OWRB NFIP State Coordinator, Teresa Painter - Tulsa County, Phillip Beauchamp - Region 4 Rep, Harry Creech - OFMA Mitigation Chair, Paul Zachary - City of Tulsa, Barend Meiling - OFMA/ASFPM Training Liaison, and Jeff Bigby - Region 2 Rep. Also, a very special thank you to Joe Remondini of the USACE, Tulsa District for loaning the Corps Riverine Flood Model for this event and the assistance from USACE staff members Ron Kerr, Russ Wyckoff and Rick Thomas with its assembly and set-up. The flood model makes it very easy to sell our views to the public.



OFMA was represented at Tulsa's 2007 Home & Garden Show

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

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

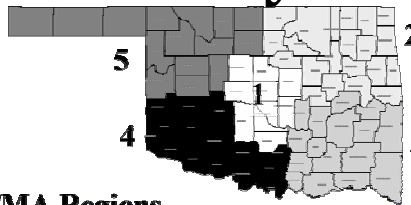
Mission

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

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

An Invitation to Join OFMA

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



OFMA Regions

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

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____ Company/Organization: _____
 Title: _____ Address: _____
 Work Phone: _____ City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

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



New Member: ☐ Renewal: ☐
 Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5
 Committees:
☐ Mitigation
☐ Mapping and Engineering
☐ Education/Legislative
☐ Certification
☐ Conference

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

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

Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Gavin Brady, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator



The first 6 months in my new position have been spent mostly on the road. Floodplain Management 101 classes continue each month in Norman at the OU campus. In February, Laureen Gilroy, Bill Smith, Ken Morris and I spent a few days in Denton, Texas with other States and Associations from Region VI. Topics discussed included Map Modernization, States budgeting, Repetitive loss buyouts and of course Katrina and Rita updates.

We kicked off March with the Spring Conference in Moore. Our Keynote Speaker was Lt. Governor Jari Askins who presented OFMA and the OWRB the Governors Proclamation declaring March as "Flood Insurance Month". As most of you know, FEMA requires a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy can take affect. Historically, most of Oklahoma's floods have occurred 11 days either side of Mother's Day, thus May is annually declared through Proclamation as "Flood Awareness Month".

March continued with the OWRB conducting 5 Floodplain Management 101 classes throughout the State in McAlester, Bartlesville, Norman, Lawton and Woodward. Joe Remondini and the Corps of Engineers conducted 4 Floodplain Management 202 classes in McAlester, Oklahoma City, Lawton and Woodward. Each were well attended and accounted for the 6 continuing education credits needed to comply with the State requirement that each Community Floodplain Administer be accredited.

April began with signs of Map Modernization in full swing. Part of the Map Mod process is to conduct a Pre-Scoping meeting in each County where new maps are to be produced. Mapping contractor, Watershed Concepts, along with FEMA coordinated the countywide effort in Wagoner, Rogers, Ottawa, Muskogee, Cherokee, Pittsburg and Pottawatomie Counties. Each community within that County was invited to attend and voice any needs and concerns the contractor should know before beginning the process. Ken Morris and I attended all of these meetings to address the map adoption process that will take place 12-16 months after the scooping meeting. Map adoption is a critical step to assure each community is compliant with their floodplain management ordinances and regulations. New maps need to be properly adopted prior to the effective date of the new FIRM. FEMA and the OWRB will be assisting communities to assure this timeframe is met. Kansas City recently failed to adopt the new FIRM before the effective date and was temporarily suspended from the NFIP. Help us help you to assure this doesn't happen in Oklahoma.

April concluded with Governor Brad Henry and Insurance Commissioner Kim Holland presenting the OWRB and OFMA the proclamation declaring May as "Flood Awareness Month". We are excited to have the support we've received from our elected officials. Ms. Holland is aware that less than 12% of homes located in the floodplain have flood insurance. This number is close to the national average but a number we should improve on in Oklahoma.

OFMA Membership Drive Update

We're past the halfway mark on the membership drive contest, but time is running out. Let's get some more entries in! Remember: 4 points for corporate member, 3 points for agency member, 2 points for full member, and 1 point for speaking to a group about joining OFMA.

WINNER gets a 2 NIGHTS STAY at an Oklahoma State LODGE or RESORT !!!

All applications must be postmarked by JULY 31. (Remember to have the new member put YOUR NAME on their application.) For more on contest rules, go to the OFMA website. www.okflood.org



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Spring 2007

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Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2006-2007

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



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 9

Summer 2007

Number 3

OFMA's 17th Annual Fall Conference September 17-19 *It Will Rain Again, It Will Flood Again!*

How prophetic! Just when we were getting used to the drought! We are once again gearing up for the Annual Fall Conference, to be held in Tulsa this year. The location is the Downtown Doubletree Hotel. The Conference is an essential training forum for Floodplain Administrators around the State. This year's storms are clear reminders of why we do what we do.

This year's Annual Conference will kick-off Sunday, September 17th with the annual OFMA Golf Tournament and the pre-conference Board Meeting. If you haven't participated in the annual tournament, be sure and sign up this year. Competition is fierce but fun will be had by all! (see below).

The Conference is once again expected to be the premier event for floodplain administrators and advocates in Oklahoma. Attendees will be

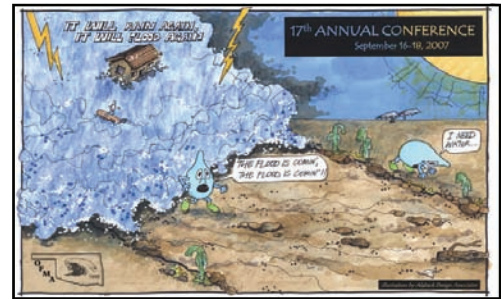
treated to three days of expert presentations, small-group discussions, training sessions and exhibits as well as opportunities for site seeing and socializing.

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

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

Monday evening will feature the Vendor's Social at Elm Creek Detention Area and Centennial Park. Entertainment for the event will be the band "Iron Horse".

(Continued on page 2)



**IT WILL RAIN AGAIN,
IT WILL FLOOD AGAIN!**



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10th Annual OFMA Golf Tournament Sunday, September 16, 2007 at 12:00pm The Canyons at Black Jack Ridge - A.K.A. Sand Springs Municipal Golf Course 1801 N McKinley Ave Sand Springs, Oklahoma



This year's golf tournament will be a two person scramble. The cost is \$40 per person, including the golf and cart. The 18 -hole "Sand Springs" course at The Canyons At Blackjack Ridge facility in Sand Springs , Oklahoma features 6,113 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 71. The course rating is 69.5 and it has a slope rating of 125. The Canyons at Blackjack Ridge offers a challenging 18-hole golf course tucked away in the hills and canyons north of Sand Springs. Golfers and guests enjoy some of the most breathtaking views of the Tulsa skyline while golfing in lush, wooded surroundings. Prizes will be awarded! Contact Bill Robison at (918) 596-9475 or preferably by e-mail brobison@ci.tulsa.ok.us.

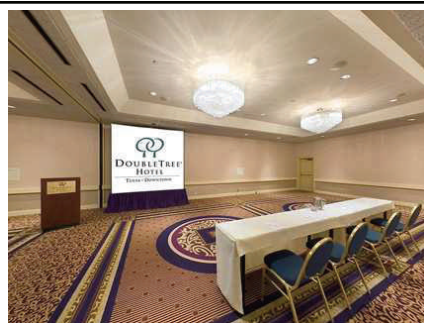
Comments from the Chair

July 2007 – Greetings

Last summer we had below normal rainfall and wildfires. This year, flash flood warnings and swollen rivers have dominated our weather reports. The much-needed moisture has also brought danger and misery to thousands of Oklahomans. Rescue workers have risked their own lives trying to save motorists trapped in vehicles. Families were evacuated from their homes. Businesses closed to clean up after storms. It's been a wet, messy summer. President Bush declared a major disaster after severe storms, tornadoes and flooding ravaged 17 Oklahoma counties in early May. The federal declaration is good news for local governments that will get funds to assist with the costs of clearing debris and rebuilding or repairing washed-out roads and bridges. A later declaration for Ottawa and Washington Counties included assistance for individuals, but such is not always the case. Individual homeowners who gamble on getting a FEMA handout instead of buying flood insurance usually find they are out of luck.

Statewide, only 12 percent of the homes in high risk flood zones carry flood insurance policies. This is true even though flood insurance is available for any property - either inside or outside the regulatory floodplain - in almost every Oklahoma community! By the way - why is fire insurance mandatory when the threat from flooding is greater than the threat of fire damage? Why don't more insurance agents advise their clients to buy flood insurance protection for their homes and businesses? It is ironic that in a conservative state such as ours where people prefer smaller government and praise rugged individualism, the majority expect the Feds to bale them out after a flood. It is so un-Oklahoman! Added to the citizens' shirking of responsibility is that of elected officials who fail to fund needed floodplain management work during dry times and that of local regulators who allow farmers to store big, round, hay bales in low-lying areas. These bales get carried downstream by floodwaters and they plug up bridge openings, causing damage to innocent people's properties. Some of the flooding that we have witnessed recently could have been prevented if channels had been cleared out and other infrastructure maintenance was performed when the creeks were dry, before it rained. Oklahoma weather is notoriously unpredictable, but as our annual conference theme this year warns us, "It will rain again. It will flood again." The drought will be upon us again soon, but the floods will come again. You can help make sure your community is ready next year by learning all you can at the conference September 16-19 at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This conference is for everyone interested in saving lives and property from flooding. Everyone means mayors, legislators, commissioners, insurance agents, real estate professionals, engineers, government employees, marketing specialists, homeowners, etc. Everyone means YOU! Go to www.okflood.org NOW and register for the OFMA 17th Annual Conference. Then you can go back home and take responsibility for making your community a safer place in which to live. It is a thankless task. Not many people will notice that you prevented a flood, but everyone will know if you fail to take appropriate measures. That's when "Flood Warning" will scroll across the bottom of their TV screens.

Lauren Gibson Gilroy



Finger food and drinks will be available, as will a shuttle service provided to and from the Doubletree Hotel. A Hospitality Suite will be available after the Vendor Social at the Double Tree.

Tuesday will begin with a plenary session featuring the MapMod program, followed by three training tracks. The Business Meeting will be held following Regional Meetings to nominate OFMA officers. The afternoon session again includes Floodplain 101 and the three training tracks. Tuesday night the Awards Banquet will feature Roy Sedwick, CFM, the Executive Director of the Texas Floodplain Managers Association. The live entertainment will feature Ernestine Dillard, a home-grown celebrity in the music world. You may remember that Mrs. Dillard sang at the memorial service for the victims of the Murrah Building bombing.

The closing plenary session on Wednesday will include Duane Smith with the OWRB presenting the "Oklahoma Water Plan", Diane Calhoun, our ASFPM representative on the "National Program", Steve Fitzgerald, P.E. the Chief Engineer of the Harris County Flood Control District, speaking on "Water Policy – Flood Control" and Juli Matthews, the City of Miami's floodplain administrator giving us a summary of the 2007 Flood in Miami. And of course, don't forget the prize drawings!

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

See you there!



Oklahoma Severe Storms, Flooding, and Tornadoes

Declared July 7, 2007

Nearly \$3.2 Million in Disaster Aid in the Hands of Oklahomans

Release Date: July 18, 2007

Release Number: 1712-003

» [More Information on Oklahoma Severe Storms, Flooding, and Tornadoes](#)



OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. -- The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (OEM) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced (July 18) that nearly **\$3.2 million** in disaster assistance is in the hands of Oklahomans affected by the severe storms, flooding and tornadoes that prompted a major disaster declaration on July 7, 2007. Under FEMA's Individuals and Households Program, housing assistance reached **\$2,603,537** and a total of **\$624,410** was approved for Other Needs.

State Coordinating Officer Fred W. Liebe said, "This is only the beginning. We are encouraging residents to call FEMA's teleregistration line and apply for help. It's important to get recovery dollars into the hands of residents who have suffered from these storms."

To date, **1,748** individuals have applied for federal and state aid by calling the toll-free application number or by visiting the Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in Miami and Bartlesville. The centers provide answers to questions about the disaster aid process. Additional DRCs will be opened as they are needed.

Federal funds are available to eligible applicants under the Individuals and Households Program for rental assistance, home repair, and other essential needs. Low interest loans for disaster losses are provided by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for eligible home and business owners.

Low-interest disaster loans from SBA are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private non-profit organizations to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance or other sources.

SBA representatives at all of the DRCs meet with each resident or business owner to provide assistance in completing their disaster loan application, answer any questions about SBA's disaster loan program, and accept completed disaster loan applications. SBA assistance is also available at 1-800-659-2955 or www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

Federal Coordinating Officer Philip E. Parr said, "FEMA is continuing to register individuals and business owners, inspect damage, process claims and deliver assistance quickly so the affected communities can get through the effects of the storms and return to functioning normally."

Those who had losses due to the disaster should register online at www.fema.gov or call **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585** for the hearing- and speech-impaired. The toll-free numbers are available daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (local time) until further notice.

SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident, initiates mitigation



(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

activities and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA works closely with state and local emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, firefighters and other first responders. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=37971>

Oklahoma Severe Storms, Flooding, and Tornadoes

Declared July 7, 2007

President Declares Major Disaster For Oklahoma

Release Date: June 7, 2007

Release Number: HQ-07-125

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced

federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of Oklahoma to supplement state and local recovery

efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding during the period of May 4-11, 2007.

FEMA Administrator David Paulison said the assistance was authorized under a major disaster declaration issued for the state by President Bush. The President's action makes federal funding available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding in Atoka, Beckham, Blaine, Caddo, Comanche, Dewey, Ellis, Greer, Kay,

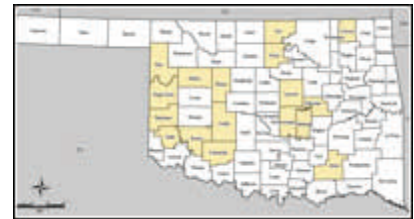
Kiowa, Lincoln, Noble, Nowata, Okfuskee, Pottawatomie, Roger Mills, and Seminole counties..

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Paulison named Philip E. Parr as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Parr said damage surveys have been scheduled and more counties and additional forms of assistance be designated after the assessments are completed.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=36850>



PLEASE JOIN US!

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

17th Annual Conference



**“IT WILL RAIN AGAIN “
“IT WILL FLOOD AGAIN”**

**Monday, September 17 – Wednesday September 19, 2007
Downtown Doubletree Hotel - Tulsa, OK**

In times of drought, floodplain management is not the top priority in most municipal government, but it is the best time to perform routine maintenance on the creeks, drainage ditches, etc. because it will rain again, and it will flood again!

Our program this year will have four (4) concurrent tracks:

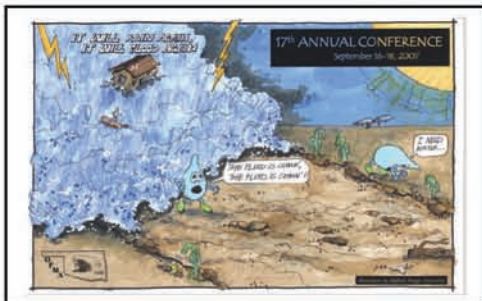
- ❖ Floodplain 101 Workshop – Sponsored and presented by OWRB
- ❖ Track 1 – Basic Training for New Floodplain Administrators/City Council, County Commissioners, Floodplain Board Members
- ❖ Track 2 – Intermediate Training for Experienced Floodplain Administrators, specifically oriented to your daily work efforts – CLOMR, LOMR, LOMA, Elevation Certificate Workshop, Permit Workshop, Development Coordination Workshop
- ❖ Track 3 – Special Issues for Engineering Consultants and Experienced Floodplain Administrators – GIS, HEC HMS, HEC RAS, Stormwater Quality Issues, Legal Issues, Etc.

Designed for anyone involved with floodplain issues:

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



Plan to attend, register early, reserve your hotel room(s), and participate.
Anyone interested in submitting a presentation or technical paper, please contact:



W. B. “Bill” Smith, P.E., CFM, OFMA Vice Chair
918-865-6977 Phone/Fax
hisinc@hotmail.com

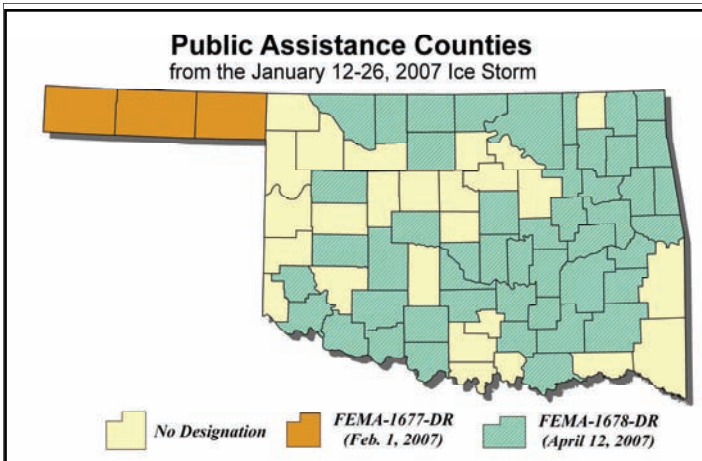
or

Philip Beauchamp, Region 4 Representative
City of Altus
(580) 481-2228
engineering@cityofaltus.org

OFMA has reserved rooms at Downtown Doubletree Hotel, 616 W 7th St., Tulsa, Oklahoma. Cost is just \$68 for Single, \$88 for Double plus tax per night.

1-800-838-7914 or <www.tulsadowntown.doubletree.com>

Reservations due no later than August 15, 2007. Mention you are with Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.



Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Provides Funding Opportunities 1677 & 1678

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natu-

ral disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

Over \$21,000,000 in Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds are expected to be available to the state due to the large economic toll of DR 1677 and 1678. Most of the money has already been designated for potential sub-grant applicants. Notices of Intent (NOI's) to apply for funds were received by OEM until the end of May. All of the sub-grants require that the applying community has an approved All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, unless the grant request is for funds with which to prepare a plan. More HMGP funds will be available this year due to the recent Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding disaster declarations (1707 and 1712).

Additional information for FEMA mitigation grant activities, including project development and pre-award requirements, is available on the [Grant Applicant Resources](#) web page.

FEMA's mitigation grants, including HMGP, are provided to eligible Applicant States/Tribes/Territories that, in turn, provide sub-grants to local governments. The Applicant selects and prioritizes applications developed and submitted to them by local jurisdictions to submit to FEMA for grant funds. Prospective Sub-applicants should consult the official designated point of contact for their Applicant State/Tribe/Territory for further information regarding specific program and application requirements. Contact information for [FEMA Regional Offices](#) and [State Hazard Mitigation Officers](#) is available on the FEMA website.

Additional information for FEMA mitigation grant activities, including project development and pre-award requirements, is available on the [Grant Applicant Resources](#) web page at <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/resources/index.shtm>.



Question: Is it accurate to say that NFIP offers flood insurance coverage to homeowners for contents only (excluding basements)?

Answer: Yes, contents is available alone or can be purchased along with building coverage. In low risk flood zones (B, C & X), contents coverage is also available through the Preferred Risk Policy (subject to eligibility requirements).

Question: Do "contents only" policies count as one whole policy? If we could get more homeowners in a community to purchase contents only policies, would our percentage of policies increase OR do you only count policies that cover buildings?

Answer: Yes. A "contents only" policy is counted as a single policy on the statistical reports. More "contents only" policies should increase your community's percentage.

From Amy Brandley, CFM, Canadian County Floodplain Administrator:

Picture of Amy

"The April-May 2007 newsletter for the Oklahoma City Association of Petroleum Landmen printed an article about Canadian County's floodplain board regulating oil and gas (see page 7 of the newsletter [Volume 4, Issue 4]). This was the article that alerted the OIPA [Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association] and set up the response to our June floodplain board meeting. The word is getting out! For the record, I don't advocate changing the regulations to require storage of fuel tanks outside the floodplain. I think it should be decided on a case by case basis."

OKLAHOMA CITY ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM LANDMEN

OCAPL Record

Floodplain Regulations on the Rise By Monica Smith and Scott St. John

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was created by the federal government in 1968, offering nonstructural approaches to reduce flood damage. The NFIP provides communities with a mechanism for implementing sound floodplain management techniques. This approach makes affordable flood insurance available for citizens in participating communities that enact and adhere to sound regulations that guide development in floodplains. It is each county or community's decision on whether they participate in Floodplain Management. In Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is the coordinating state agency for Floodplain Management.

Unfortunately, the Floodplain Management Administrators are not put on notice of drilling activity within their respective community until it is published in the Journal Record or the OCC website. By this point, the operator is very close to commencing drilling activities. To close the gap, Floodplain Administrators are working with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to develop an early warning system that will alert County Floodplain Administrators to wells being drilled in the Floodplain. This may result in changes to the OCC Intent to Drill form and/or the approval process of the Intent to Drill.

Currently, 52 counties in Oklahoma participate in the NFIP with the Canadian County Floodplain Board considered the most stringent, having set a precedent for all other counties. Currently, they are considering a change in regulations that will affect operators in this county. The change would require any operator drilling a well in a floodplain within Canadian County to locate tanks outside the floodplain. This could increase location costs and maintenance.

Under the current regulations, operators submit a Development Permit for review by the Floodplain Board. The application includes best management practices, engineering plats and location maps. A major requirement of floodplain management is flood proofing. Flood proofing is a broad term and can encompass many mitigation techniques. However, whatever mitigation is proposed requires a professional engineer's approval. At the most recent Canadian County Floodplain Board meeting, a Development Permit was approved to anchor tanks down within the floodplain. However, board members were concerned with the possibility of erosion under the pad and the tanks being ruptured by large debris. The floodplain administrator suggested changing the county floodplain regulations to require all tanks to be located outside the floodplain. The board members were open to the suggestion. Whichever way the board decides, it is clear that regulations are becoming increasingly stringent.

- Reprinted with Permission from the Oklahoma City Association of Petroleum Landmen -

Web Sites

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

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- 2007-2008 Floodplain Management 101 or Map Modernization , the Map Adoption Process, & Advanced Floodplain Management**
 Floodplain Management Class Schedule. Apply online or Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800
 August 15, 2007 - Norman OCCC
 October 17, 2007 - Norman OCCC
 November 14, 2007 - Norman OCCC
 January 16, 2008 - Norman OCCC
 February 20, 2008 - Norman OCCC
 March 4-Woodward - High Plains Institute of Technology
 March 6 McAlester - Eastern Oklahoma State College
 March 11 Bartlesville - Tri County Technology Center
 March 13 Lawton - Fairfield Inn And Suites
 March 19, 2008 - Norman OCCC
 April 9, 2008 - Norman OCCC
 May 6, 2008 - Norman OCCC
 May 8, 2008 - Norman OCCC
- OML/MESO Annual Conference:** September 11-13, 2007; Tulsa - www.oml.org
- OFMA 17th Annual Conference:** September 16-19, 2007, Double Tree Hotel Downtown, Tulsa, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.
- Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference:** October 23-25.
- Stronger Together: Annual Conference on Property Loss Reduction:** Nov. 8-9, 2007 . Sponsor: Institute for Business and Home Safety website www.ibhs.org/congress
- FEMA's Annual National Flood Conference:** May 20-23, 2008; Chicago, Illinois. Sponsored by the NFIP; website: www.fema.gov/business/nfip/natl_fldconf.shtm
- ASFPM 32nd Annual Conference:** May 18-23, 2008; Reno, NV. www.floods.org

OFMA General Store

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

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

Or call Carolyn Schultz
 (918) 669-4919



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

Shipping and handling \$4.95 per order.

Oklahoma Teaches Us All A Few Tricks for Enforcing Substantial Damage

In early July, Oklahoma and Texas were absolutely hammered by floods. One of the worst hit areas was the City of Miami in Ottawa County, Oklahoma. Some seven hundred homes have been damaged in this small county, many of which suffered substantial damage with several being hit by over 88 inches of floodwater.

Unfortunately, several of these structures have flooded as many as 21 times over the past 50 years, and historically, local officials in the City of Miami and Ottawa County have allowed devastated flood victims to rebuild as soon as possible, disregarding all locally adopted National Flood Insurance requirements for safe and proper rebuilding of substantially damaged buildings.

This time, however, the new slate of officials in place had a different view about rebuilding after a flood, but they wanted to make sure that they were on solid ground to take strong action and break the cycle once and for all. The primary power was City Attorney Erik Johnson. He was very concerned about inverse condemnation and the taking issue if the city did not allow folks to rebuild and go back into their flooded homes. General Counsel for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Dean Couch, consulted with ASFPM legal experts and contacted Mr. Johnson early on in this process, explaining the role of the floodplain administrator and the justification for performing the substantial damage determinations.

The State NFIP Coordinator's Office sent OWRB employees Gavin Brady, State Coordinator, and long time floodplain manager, Ken Morris, to provide technical support and guidance to local officials. Brady and Morris immediately called FEMA Region 6 for support and help in obtaining trailers to house the disaster survivors while a safe rebuilding process takes place. Brady

(Continued on page 10)

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

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

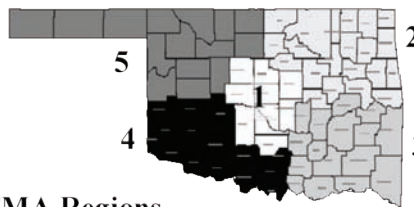
Mission

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

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

An Invitation

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



OFMA Regions

to Join

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

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____

Fax: _____

Title: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Work Phone: _____

Address: _____

Detach and Mail to:

OFMA

P.O. Box 8101

Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

New Member: ☐

Renewal: ☐

Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

Committees:

- ___ Mitigation
- ___ Mapping and Engineering
- ___ Education/Legislative
- ___ Certification
- ___ Conference
- ___ Research

Dues Schedule:

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

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



Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Gavin Brady, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator

Will Rogers once said, "If you don't like the weather in Oklahoma, just wait a minute". I've experienced several floods in my 25 years working for the OWRB however never have I seen such dramatic spikes in the weather. The drought was reaching a critical stage in most areas of Oklahoma. Lakes, rivers and a majority of Oklahoma's farm ponds were drying up. Several Oklahoma communities and rural water districts were scrambling to find alternate drinking water sources. Several experts in weather forecasting continue to say this is just a wet period in a 10-year drought cycle, only time will prove the experts claims as accurate or not.

With June rainfall totals over 20 inches in some areas of the State, moderate to critical flooding is occurring throughout Oklahoma. As I write this article, floodwaters have overtopped the levees on the Verdigris River in Coffeyville, Kansas and South Coffeyville, Oklahoma. Water elevations along the Verdigris River are expected to reach record levels in the next few days. The Caney River in Bartlesville, Bird Creek in Skiatook, Cache Creek in Lawton, Cottonwood Creek in Guthrie, the N. Canadian River in Shawnee and many other flooding situations are occurring over the entire State.

Floodplain Administrators (FPA) should take this opportunity to evaluate their Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). One of the responsibilities a FPA has is to determine if a structure is substantially damaged. Substantial damage 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. If the structure is substantially damaged, and is located in the SFHA, the structure would be required to meet your community's elevation standard. Please contact the OWRB or FEMA and request the Residential Substantial Damage Estimate (RSDE) program to assist you in making this determination.

Ken Morris and I conducted our first "Map Modernization and Ordinance/Regulation Adoption" workshop in Purcell at the McClain County Courthouse. NFIP participating communities from McClain County attended the 2-hour workshop to learn what will be expected of them before their new Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) becomes effective in November. Once a Letter of Final Determination (LFD) has been sent to a community, they have 6 months to adopt an ordinance or regulation. Washington, Cleveland and Canadian County's should be the next communities to receive a LFD. Ken and I will conduct workshops for all communities receiving new FIRM's.

Now is the time to evaluate your Floodplain Management Program. Is the flood covering the SFHA's identified on your communities FIRM? Are the structures you required to elevate staying dry? Are your detention ponds working as designed? Is substantial damage occurring? Have you identified some high water marks for later reference? Now is the time!



(Continued from page 9 - Annual Conference Summary)

and Morris also appealed to ASFPM Headquarters in Madison to provide legal and technical support to bolster the State efforts to ensure proper and safe rebuilding. ASFPM asked Attorney, Floodplain Manager, and Michael Baker employee Ed Thomas to help with some quick talking points for state officials to use.

Thomas replied with the following suggestions:

A) Give people a simplified summary of the situation, explaining how the municipality will be at legal and Flood Program risk for failing to fully enforce their regulations unless proper and safe rebuilding is enforced.

B) Instead of helping folks, ignoring regulations and allowing them to rebuild in the same old flood-prone way would facilitate a time bomb of misery for the residents and multiple future generations.

C) Each and every municipality and individual who does not enforce regulations is putting themselves at individual and even personal risk for liability from future damages.

D) Failure to enforce floodplain regulations puts the entire community at risk for probation and/or suspension from the NFIP, thus endangering the entire recovery process.

E) A "Patchwork Quilt Approach" to funding would be an appropriate and beneficial way to rebuild this area safely and properly without undue hardship on the residents. (More information on the "Patchwork Quilt Approach" is available on the ASFPM web site at:

http://www.floods.org/PDF/Post_Disaster_Reconstruction_Patchwork_Quilt_ET.pdf.)

Morris and Brady presented these materials to the City at a large Public Meeting, and the City was convinced to continue to enforce their existing floodplain regulations. Morris summed up this ongoing success story up by indicating that success was due to the leadership of local officials with the help of the OWRB. "I also believe the Patchwork Quilt document and Ed's words were overwhelmingly convincing," says Morris. **Oklahoma-OK!**

From an article in ASFPM's "New and Views" by Ed Thomas, edited by Darla Whitley of OWRB



OFMA'S CORPORATE PARTNERS



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Oklahoma City, OK 73116
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Cinnabar Service Company

Terry Young
5121 South Wheeling Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74105
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501 225-7779

Grand River Dam Authority

Robert W. Sullivan, Jr.
P.O. Box 409
Vinita, OK 74301-0409
918 256-5545, x4467

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Laurel, MD 20707
301 982-2898

Guy Engineering

Julie Guy P.E., CFM
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Tulsa, OK 74116
918 437-0282

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The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 9

Fall 2007

Number 4

OFMA's 17th Annual Conference Wrap-Up *It Will Rain Again, It Will Flood Again!*

What a year for Floodplain Managers to monitor the tremendous weather activity and then make it to this year's Annual Conference, with the slogan *It Will Rain Again, It Will Flood Again!* This was coined by the new Chair W. B. Smith, P.E., CFM of HISINC, L.L.C. last October before the significant Spring and Summer rains provided temporary relief from the 4-year drought in many parts of Oklahoma.



The OFMA Annual Conference was held at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma, from September 17th to 19th, 2007. Over 175 OFMA members, including local floodplain administrators, engineering consultants, vendors, and sponsors attended the Association's functions. From the opening 'First Timers' meeting to the closing discussions, the OFMA Annual Conference highlighted the impact Floodplain Managers have upon where we live and work. Enjoying the exquisite interior of the Doubletree Hotel mixed with the beautiful weather of mid September, participants at the conference enjoyed a very pleasurable setting to experience all that was offered.



OFMA Golf Tournament was held on Sunday, September 16th, 2007 at the The Canyons at Black Jack Ridge (A.K.A. Sand Springs Municipal Golf Course) Sand Springs, Oklahoma. While everyone involved had great fun there could only be a few winners among the highly competitive teams involved. The team of Mike Jones and Doug Wellhouse earned third place while Russ Wykoff and Jim Leach placed second. Top honors and congratulations went to Carolyn Schultz and Kelly Gile.

Monday morning arrived and the Booker T. Washington "T-Connection" Marching Band and ROTC Air Force Color Guard opened the Conference accompanied by a vocal solo by Rev. Ruthie McKittrick of Pettie Chapel CME Church. Exhibits were

Booker T. Washington "T-Connection"



Ernestine Dillard

(Continued on page 3)

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OFMA SPECIAL MEETING

Scheduled for April 3, 2008

Dear OFMA Member

As we briefly discussed in the Business Meeting at the Annual Conference, an ADHOC Bylaws Committee was formed in September 2007. At the October 2007 Board meeting the Committee presented its initial findings. Their report states that there are items of conflict between our Constitution and our Bylaws. The OFMA Board has requested the Committee to continue its work and draft necessary amendments to both the Constitution and the Bylaws to eliminate these conflicts.

I refer you to the OFMA Strategic Plan. One element of our plan was to find an Executive Director (ED) and to determine and recommend whether or not this would be a paid position. Joe Remondini drafted a task element on this item which he elaborated on during the 2006 Strategic Plan Retreat in Norman. At that time, Ken Morris volunteered for the ED position. It was Chairman Gilroy's

(Continued on page 6)

Comments from the Chair

Welcome to a new OFMA year. I am proud and honored to be your Chair for 2007-2008 and to represent you throughout this coming year. We have many issues to address as the new OFMA year begins, and together we can.

I would like to welcome our new Officers and Board Members. Clark Williams, CFM of Piedmont is our new Vice Chair. Carolyn Schultz, CFM and Ellen Stevens, P.E., CFM continue in their roles as Treasurer and Secretary. Ken Morris, CFM is our duly esteemed Executive Director and Gavin Brady, CFM represents OWRB as the State NFIP Coordinator. We have two new Regional Representatives – Region III – Joseph Marquardt, CFM from Durant, Ok. and Region V - Marc Bolz, CFM from Enid. They join our other Regional Representatives from Region 1 - Leslie Lewis, P.E., CFM; Region 2 – Jeff Bigby, P.E., CFM, and Region IV – Phillip Beauchamp, CFM. Each of these individuals places great emphasis on their duties to their communities and to OFMA. We commend them for their efforts and ask our members to coordinate your needs and desires through the Regional Representatives. They are also the points of contact for local training provided by the OFMA Training Cadre that will come to your area to conduct training and workshops.

Our 17th Annual Conference was deemed to be very successful and I thank all of those who assisted in the preparation and execution of the event. The CDs for the program are being developed and will be mailed to you very soon. I would especially like to express our thanks to the vendors and sponsors who help offset a large part of our financial obligations for the conference. We look forward to the 18th Annual Conference in Midwest City and to the 2010 ASFP National Conference in Oklahoma City. OFMA will be integrally involved in the planning and execution of the 2010 National Conference.

This year brings many issues – 2007 summer flooding disaster assistance and cleanup of flooded areas, Map Modernization across the State; Oil and Gas Permitting Issues; new developments, etc. Each floodplain administrator is required by State Statute to be certified annually. This is not a requirement only to comply with State law, but to educate the local officials about how to implement and maintain a floodplain management program in your local community. The local floodplain administrator is the “floodplain cop” and his/her duties and responsibilities are to protect the lives and property within that community. OFMA and OWRB work hand-in-hand to provide the necessary training and tools to help the local floodplain administrator perform those duties. That is the basic premise of OFMA – to support our local floodplain administrators. However we can help, we will.

There will be more specifics about the coming year after our OFMA Board Retreat on December 5-7, 2007, as our Strategic Plan is reviewed, updated and adopted.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

OFMA Chair

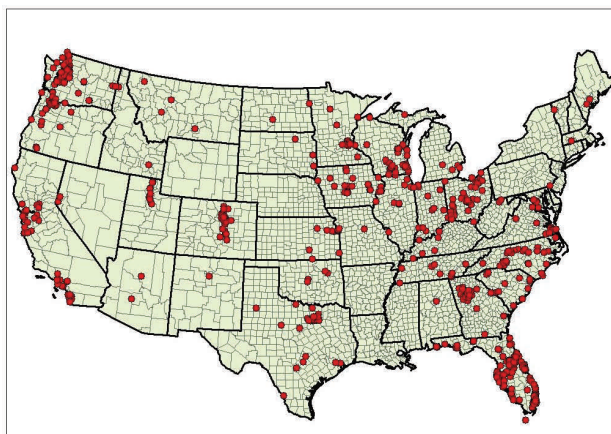
W. B. “Bill” Smith, P.E., CFM



Western Kentucky University Stormwater Utility Survey 2007

Western Kentucky University's Engineering program has the only Floodplain Management Minor provided in the U.S. This is a national certification administered by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (www.flood.org). In August 2007 students attending classes at Western Kentucky University contributed several hundred hours to complete a Storm Water Utility (SWU) survey* attempting to identify as many U.S. SWU's as possible. The students also looked for additional information: monthly fees, the Equivalent Residential unit (ERU) for the communities and the year the SWU was enacted. Students used the Internet as the primary method for compiling data while attempting to make sure the information was up-to-date and accurate. The intent of the survey was that it would become a living document available to all without restraint. For more information about Western Kentucky University go to www.wku.edu. For more information about the SWU survey go to www.wku.edu/swusurvey or email Warren Campbell at warren.campbell@wku.edu.

*Campbell, C. Warren (2007). “Western Kentucky University 2007 Stormwater Utility Survey,” Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, 26 pp.



Nearly \$32 Million In Disaster Aid Approved For Oklahomans Affected By Summer Storms

Release Date: October 16, 2007

Release Number: 1718-062

[» More Information on Oklahoma Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding](#)

[» More Information on Oklahoma Severe Storms, Flooding, and Tornadoes](#)

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. -- Oklahomans have received more than \$31.7 million in disaster aid due to the severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes that caused extensive damage to homes as well as personal losses this past summer. Costly in terms of monetary value and personal loss, disasters personally impacted more than 7,776 Oklahomans during the summer.

This disaster assistance was approved for Oklahomans affected by the severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes which occurred June 10 thru July 25 and another bout of severe weather August 18 thru September 12, according to officials with the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (OEM), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).



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OMFA Annual Conference Summary

also open to participants to view and interact with as the conference progressed. The 'First Timers' meeting began at 7:30 a.m. where participants met with OFMA Officers, Region Representatives and Committee Chairs to gain a sense of fellowship with their new Association. The Opening Plenary Track started at 9 a.m. Deputy Mayor Tom Baker of the City of Tulsa provided the Welcome to the participants, including the introduction of the new Tulsa District Commander Col. Funkhouser, and discussing the effects of flooding on the City of Tulsa over the past decades as well as reflecting on his rescue efforts as the former Fire Chief of the City of Tulsa.



Steve Fitzgerald, Chief Engineer, Harris Co. Flood Control District

The Conference was designed to provide educational opportunities in the form of tracks – Track 1 – Basic Training, Track 2 – Intermediate Training, and Track 3 – Special Issues. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board also provided a Floodplain 101 training opportunity for new floodplain administrators to receive their six (6) hours of required certification training under Oklahoma State statute.

As always, speakers on each topic had first hand experience to share with participants. Monday closed with a Reception in the Doubletree's Manchester Room where conference attendees were able to relax and visit with one another. Some of the membership base chose to extend the evening with games and socializing in downtown Tulsa.

The Vendors social was held at the Central Center, a newly created portion of downtown Tulsa with the newly completed Centennial Center Stormwater Detention Facility being the focus of the event. On Tuesday evening the OFMA Awards Banquet was held to honor those floodplain administrators who endeavor to go "above and beyond" their minimum duties in protecting the citizens of their communities.

The 17th Annual Conference came to a close with the passing of the gavel. Vice-Chair Bill Smith accepted his new position as Chair, and now former Chair Lauren Gilroy was presented with an honorary gavel to commemorate her time as OFMA Chair. Clark Williams was elected Vice-Chair and will serve under Chair Smith for the year.

The OFMA will host a Spring Workshop on April 3, 2008 at the new Ardmore Convention Center and the 2008 18th Annual Conference will be held at the Reed Center in Midwest City on Sept 22-24, 2008.

Click the *Archives* link then *Past Conferences* at www.okflood.org to view a slideshow of pictures from this Fall's 2007 Annual Conference.



BTW Director, Rev. Ruthie McKittrick, Bill Smith, Col. Funkhouser



Mickey Douglas, former Region 3 Representative, with the Iron Horse Band

17th Annual OFMA Awards

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

This year's Ben Fizzell Media Award winner is Conrad Dudderar, News Editor for the Yukon Review. Mr. Dudderar made huge strides in promoting the county program. His well written articles have helped make a difference in trying to educate the public in this area.

**Mayor Norton**

This year's Platinum Level Ronald D. Flanagan Project Award was presented to Mayor Robert Norton and the City of Coweta for the buyout project involving 16 single family homes. A Gold Level award was presented to Nancy Kennedy, CFM, and the City of Edmond for the Edmond Urban Stream Restoration Project. A Silver Level award was presented to the OFMA for the "Turn Around, Don't Drown" calendar and poster program. This contest has helped educate 4th graders across the state as well as alert residents of Oklahoma to the dangers of driving into flood waters. Other state associations are now following OFMA's lead with this outstanding educational

project about floodplain.

**Nancy Kennedy**

Recipients of the W. Kenneth Morris Honorary Lifetime Member Award have offered tremendous support and assistance to OFMA for many years. Their commitment and enthusiasm to floodplain management has become so recognizable that it becomes evident that each recipient must become distinguished as a lifetime member. This year's award recipients are Rhonda Bowers and Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM. Congratulations to each of you.

The Special Recognition Awards are presented by the Board of Directors annually. These awards are given to individuals in the floodplain management business that have demonstrated excellence in an endeavor that is worthy of recognition. This years Special Recognition Award recipients are Eugene Blankenship, Muskogee County; Leslie Lewis, State of Oklahoma; Janell Woods, Blaine County; Amy Brandley, Canadian County FPA; Jerry Ruse, City of Miami; Gavin Brady, NFIP State Coordinator; and the Hydrologic Technicians of USGS, Oklahoma Water Science Center.

This years Outstanding Recognition Award recipients are Dean Couch, General Counsel of the OWRB; and Robert Tortorelli, Ph.D., CFM, with the USGS Oklahoma Water Science Center. Mr Couch has been a key player on the OWRB Floodplain Management 101 Team. He has taken time from his busy schedule to teach the State Law of Oklahoma, the floodplain management act, the landlord tenant act and the full hazard disclosure act. Dean has taught each month at the 101 workshops at Norman and traveled the state in March and taught at each of the workshop locations around the state. His time and energy in this program has helped floodplain management in Oklahoma. Additionally, Mr. Couch helped Educate the City of Miami Attorney, Erik Johnson in substantial damage, inverse condemnation and provided support to Mr. Johnson so that the City would pursue the correct action after the July 4th floods in Miami. Mr. Couch also took similar action with the City of Bartlesville. Dr. Tortorelli is an author of 35 publications in areas of flood frequency, drought analysis, stream flow statistics and FEMA Flood Insurance Studies. He serves as the information officer for flood related activities for USGS, an organization to which he has dedicated 29 years of service.

**Dean Couch**

This year's Public Official of the Year Award was given to Cecil Bearden, P.E., previously presented at Mr. Bearden's retirement celebration. Mr. Bearden served as the Chairman of the Canadian County Floodplain Board for 26 years. Mr. Bearden continues to Chair the Canadian County Floodplain Board.

**Cecil Bearden**

The Chairman's Award is for recognition of individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. This years Special Recognition Award recipients are Anna Waggoner, CFM, City of Yukon; Gavin Brady, CFM, State NFIP Controller; Carolyn Schultz, CFM, Corps of Engineers; and Ed Endicott, Retired, Corps of Engineers. Congratulations to each of you.

**Juli Matthews**

The Floodplain Manager of the Year Award goes to an individual who has shown significant excellence in the field of floodplain management. The individual has demonstrated dedication through the administration of their community's floodplain management program in pursuing the goals of flood loss reduction and in the prevention of loss of life. This year's award receipt of Floodplain Manager of the Year is Juli Matthews, City of Miami.

Congratulations to each of this year's OFMA Awards recipients! Your dedication and service to this Association is greatly appreciated and valued as a critical asset to our goal of protecting life and property to flood hazards. Thank you!

PLEASE JOIN US!

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

SPRING TECHNICAL WORKSHOP



“What’s Old Again is New Again – Floodplain Management in the 21st Century”

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Ardmore Convention Center – Ardmore, OK

The Spring Technical Workshop will be held in Ardmore, Oklahoma, at the new Ardmore Convention Center off of Exit 33 (Veterans Boulevard), from I-35 on Rockford Road, April 3, 2008. Registration forms are available for download at www.okflood.org. The cost of registration will be \$65.00. Also, OFMA has secured blocks of rooms at Marriott’s Springhill Suites right next door to the Convention Center for the night of April 2nd, with discounted rates. However due to the increase in the Ardmore business park growth and oil field development in the Ardmore area **room availability and reservations are at a premium.** Therefore we are requesting a room commitment as soon as possible.

Marriott’s Springhill Suites
2501 Centennial Drive North
Ardmore, OK 73402

1-888-287-9400

<http://www.marriott.com>

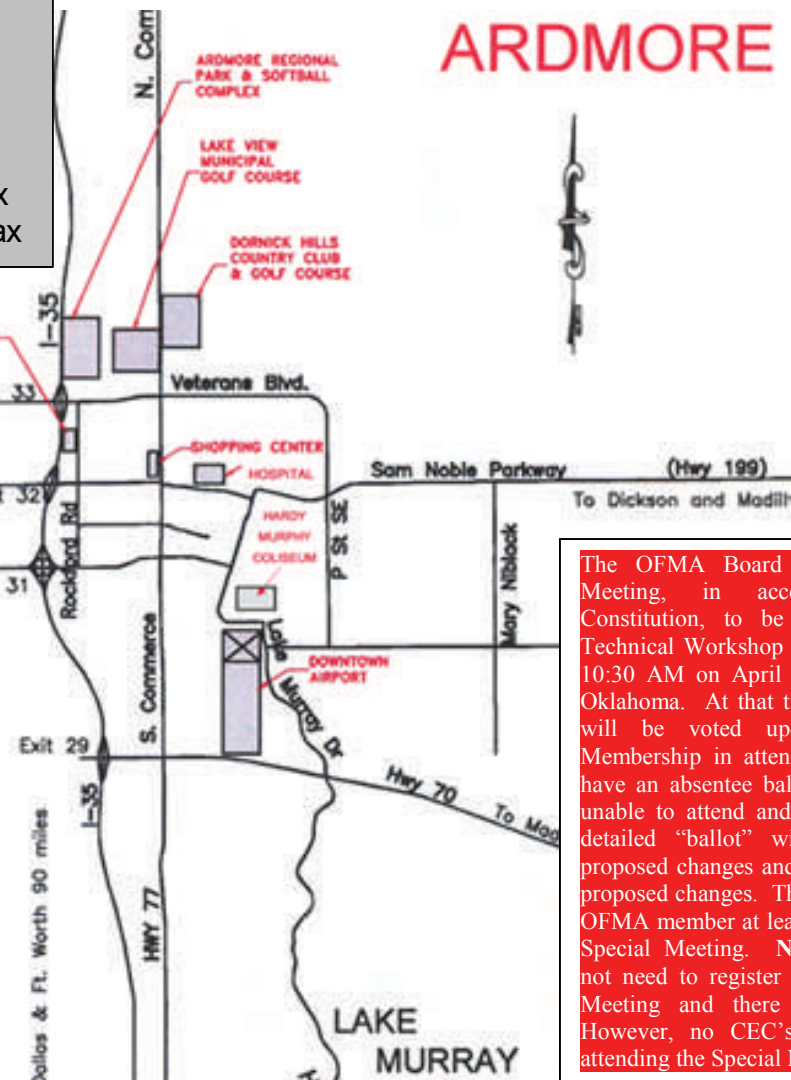
Rooms:

King – 25 rooms at \$104+tax

Queen – 25 rooms at \$99+tax



Conveniently located at Exit 33 off I-35 between Dallas and Oklahoma City, the Ardmore Convention Center offers meeting and event planners the perfect space both inside and outside the state-of-the-art building.



The OFMA Board will call a Special Meeting, in accordance with the Constitution, to be held at the Spring Technical Workshop between 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM on April 3, 2008, in Ardmore, Oklahoma. At that time proposed changes will be voted upon by the OFMA Membership in attendance. We will also have an absentee ballot for those who are unable to attend and desire to vote. The detailed “ballot” will include both the proposed changes and the reasoning for the proposed changes. This will be sent to each OFMA member at least 30 days prior to the Special Meeting. **NOTE:** Individuals do not need to register to attend this Special Meeting and there will be no charge. However, no CEC’s will be earned for attending the Special Meeting only.

FEMA's independence is aim of Inhofe bill

by: JIM MYERS World Washington Bureau

10/23/2007



WASHINGTON -- U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe introduced a bill Monday that would make the Federal Emergency Management Agency an independent agency once again and improve its response time to natural disasters in Oklahoma.

"FEMA's integration into the Department of Homeland Security after 9/11 added an extra level of bureaucracy and removed much of the oversight and autonomy that once kept the agency operating efficiently," the Oklahoma Republican said.

"Oklahomans experienced this inefficiency first-hand after a series of winter storms and summer flooding caused extensive damage to our state this year."

The senator's legislation addresses the disagreement over correct dates of events, one of the specific issues blamed for FEMA's slow response recently.

"It simply makes sense that the state would have the most accurate information available regarding the disasters and their causes, so I have also included language in my bill stating that the director should give deference to state documentation when determining disaster incident periods," Inhofe said. "Prior to FEMA's placement under Homeland Security, Oklahoma did not encounter these same bureaucratic delays and other problems in the wake of natural disasters."

Inhofe is not the first lawmaker to propose such legislation. The much-criticized response to Hurricane Katrina fueled efforts to strip FEMA from Homeland Security and return it to independent status.

Last May, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., reintroduced legislation to restore FEMA to an independent, Cabinet-level agency and require its director to report directly to the president. But others, including such key lawmakers as Sen. Joe Lieberman, the current chairman of the Senate panel with jurisdiction over FEMA, have pushed another approach.

Lieberman, who is identified as an Independent Democrat, last year promoted a bill that would elevate FEMA's status within the Department of Homeland Security but keep it a part of that agency.

Jim Myers (202) 484-1424

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(Continued from page 1)

recommendation that Mr. Morris would serve as a non-paid interim ED until the Annual Conference in 2007, at which time it would become official. However, this action was determined to require a modification of the By-Laws. The Board's motion to amend the Bylaws, which was done in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution, to add the position of Executive Director, has been stayed by a motion in the October Board Meeting. The Bylaws were never officially changed. This issue will be addressed at a Special Meeting.

ASFPM, Inc. has recommended that each State Chapter become incorporated. All other State Chapters in Region VI are incorporated or are completing the necessary paperwork to do so. OFMA has done the same and this change will require a modification of one sentence in the Constitution. Incorporation of OFMA reduces the legal liability on the Board of Directors. This issue will be addressed at a Special Meeting.

Accordingly, the OFMA Board will call a Special Meeting, in accordance with the Constitution, to be held at the Spring Technical Workshop between 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM on April 3, 2008, in Ardmore, Oklahoma. At that time the proposed changes discussed above will be voted upon by the OFMA Membership in attendance. We will also have an absentee ballot for those who are unable to attend and desire to vote. The detailed "ballot" will include both the proposed changes and the reasoning for the proposed changes. This will be sent to each OFMA member at least 30 days prior to the Special Meeting. **NOTE:** Individuals do not need to register to attend this Special Meeting and there will be no charge. However, no CEC's will be earned for attending the Special Meeting only.

We appreciate your participation in this process to see that our Constitution and Bylaws do not conflict and address the other issues that have been raised by the membership. If you have questions on any of these issues, please contact your Regional Representative or any Board officer.

Sincerely,

OFMA

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

(Continued from page 3)

The recovery summary as of October 16 is as follows:

- 7,776 individuals have registered for Individual Assistance.
- **\$15.3 million** in Individual Assistance has been approved.
- **SBA has approved \$16.3 million** in low-interest disaster loans to Oklahoma residents and businesses.
- 7,017 home inspections have been completed.
- 6,046 individuals have visited the Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC).
- **\$17,657** in disaster unemployment has been approved.

Individual Assistance is available for residents who incurred losses in the severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes which occurred August 18 thru September 12 in the following 15 counties: Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, Cleveland, Comanche, Custer, Grady, Kingfisher, Kiowa, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Pottawatomie, Seminole and Stephens. **The deadline to apply for Individual Assistance for disaster losses that occurred during the disaster period of August 18 thru September 12 is October 23.**

Individual Assistance is available for residents who sustained damage due to the severe weather June 10 to July 25, 2007 in the following **39 counties**: Atoka, Blaine, Bryan, Caddo, Canadian, Cleveland, Coal, Comanche, Cotton, Creek, Delaware, Garfield, Garvin, Grady, Kay, Kingfisher, Kiowa, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mayes, McClain, Muskogee, Noble, Nowata, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Ottawa, Payne, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Rogers, Seminole, Stephens, Washington, Washita, and Woods. **The deadline to apply for Individual Assistance for disaster losses that occurred June 10 thru July 25 is November 5.**

Disaster victims are urged to register for assistance by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or going on-line at www.fema.gov. The **TTY number is 1-800-462-7585** for the speech- or hearing-impaired. The helplines are available 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Residents and business owners can receive information about SBA disaster loans and help with the application process by calling the **SBA at 1-800-659-2955** or visiting the SBA Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Applicants should contact FEMA and the SBA to update their information and also provide any change in current mailing addresses.

SBA offers low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations for losses not fully covered by insurance. The SBA may loan up to \$200,000 to repair or replace homes and up to \$40,000 to repair or replace personal property. Up to \$1.5 million is available for uncompensated business disaster losses. For more information on Oklahoma disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov, www.floodsmart.gov, and www.oem.ok.gov.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=41342>



Question: We are starting to develop GIS in our community? Can we download and use Q3 Flood Data for floodplain determinations?

Answer: No. Digital Q3 Flood Data are not detailed enough for floodplain determinations. The hardcopy FIRM or DFIRM must be used to make official determinations. Q3 Flood Data were originally developed to serve FEMA's needs for disaster response activities, as well as broad-based review for floodplain management, land-use planning, commercial site analysis, insurance target marketing, natural resource/environmental

analyses, and real estate development and targeting.

Question: Why do the Q3 maps seem so inaccurate in many areas?

Answer: These maps are only horizontally controlled to a 1:24,000 scale (7½ minute) quadrangle. They may be viewed at larger scales but will not have the accuracy required for those larger scales.

Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org

ASFPM www.floods.org

OWRB www.owrb.state.ok.us

FEMA www.fema.gov

OEM www.ok.gov/oem

Corps of Engineers (USACE)

www.swt.usace.army.mil

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

ok.water.usgs.gov

Advanced Study Institute

web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi

CLOMR/LOMR Forms:

www.fema.gov/fhm/frm_form.shtm

EPA NPDES Phase II site:

www.epa.gov/npdes/

SMRC Stormwater Mgr Resource Center:

www.stormwatercenter.net

FEMA Official NFIP Site:

www.floodsmart.gov

Link to: 44 CFR Ch. I (10-1-02 Edition)

http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/fr/waisidx_02/44cfrv1_02.html

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Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- 2007-2008 Floodplain Management 101 or Map Modernization , the Map Adoption Process, & Advanced Floodplain Management**
 Floodplain Management Class Schedule. Apply online or Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800
 January 16, 2008 - Norman OCCE
 February 20, 2008 - Norman OCCE
 March 4-Woodward - High Plains Institute of Technology
 March 6 McAlester - Eastern Oklahoma State College
 March 11 Bartlesville - Tri County Technology Center
 March 13 Lawton - Fairfield Inn And Suites
 March 19, 2008 - Norman OCCE
 April 9, 2008 - Norman OCCE
 May 6, 2008 - Norman OCCE
 May 8, 2008 - Norman OCCE
- OFMA Annual Spring Conference:** April 3, 2008, Ardmore Convention Center, Ardmore, OK, 73402. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.
- ASFPM 32nd Annual Conference:** May 18-23, 2008; Reno, NV. www.floods.org
- FEMA's Annual National Flood Conference:** May 20-23, 2008; Chicago, Illinois. Sponsored by the NFIP; website: www.fema.gov/business/nfip/natl_fldconf.shtm
- 2008 National Hydraulic Engineering Conference:** August 26-29, 2008, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME, 04101. Sponsored by the FHWA, MDOT and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cold Research Laboratory; website: www.maine.gov/mdot/workshops-conferences-events/workshops-events.php
- OFMA 18th Annual Conference:** September 21-24, 2008, Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Conference Center, Midwest City, OK, 73110. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.

OFMA General Store

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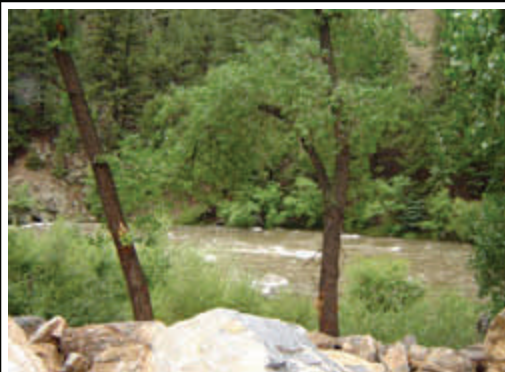
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Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning

The major question haunting hazard mitigation planning in recent years has been how best to move beyond the serious disconnect that often exists between such planning and other local planning activities. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, which conditions eligibility for hazard mitigation grants from the Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) upon a state's or local jurisdiction's official participation in an approved local hazard mitigation plan under the act, has moved many communities forward in thinking about such plans. But there remains considerable room for improvement in tying those plans effectively to daily planning activities in those communities.

The American Planning Association (APA) Hazards Planning Research Center will prepare a Planning Advisory Service Report on best practices in integrating hazard mitigation into all forms of local plan making and planning activities. FEMA has contracted with APA for a 30-month study costing \$250,000. FEMA will provide \$206,000 of this total, with the rest provided by APA through the Planning Advisory Service. The project start date was August 1, 2007.

What local planning activities could benefit from better integration of hazard mitigation concerns? The study will examine the following for best practices and developing opportunities:

- Long-range community visioning and goals and objectives activities;
- Plan making of all types:

(Continued on page 10)

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

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

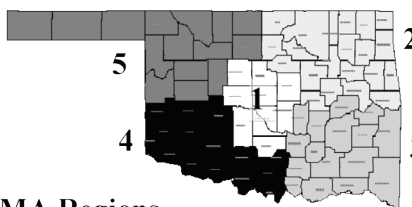
Mission

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

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

An Invitation

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



OFMA Regions

to Join

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

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____

Fax: _____

Title: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Work Phone: _____

Address: _____

Detach and Mail to:

OFMA

P.O. Box 8101

Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

New Member: ☐

Renewal: ☐

Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

Committees:

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

Dues Schedule:

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

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



Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Gavin Brady, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator

As 2007 nears an end, I reflect back to our record setting year. The year started with drought, which quickly turned to flooding then ended with our lakes at normal levels. Oklahoma experienced it all this year. Several areas in the State will have record annual rainfall including Oklahoma City with over 53 inches of rain and almost two months remaining in the year.



I asked you to evaluate your communities Floodplain Management program in this summers "BFE". What was the result? Are there ways to improve your program? One way the OWRB try's to help improve your program is through the "Floodplain Management 101" and the "Advanced Floodplain Management" classes we conduct throughout the year. As you know, Oklahoma law requires each community to designate a floodplain administrator and requires that FPA to acquire at least six continuing education credits annually or be a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) in good standing. While a majority of FPA's are accredited and/or CFM's, there are many who aren't. With Map Modernization in full swing, many Oklahoma communities will be updating their floodplain management ordinances and regulations. Part of this update will include the accreditation requirement which will then in turn allow the OWRB to enforce the mandate. The reason I bring this up is the November workshop currently has only a handful of people registered. We should average 25-30 attendees at each class to instruct the 378 FPA's throughout the State. You can visit www.owrb.ok.gov and see the class schedule for 2008. Most classes are taught in Norman at the University of Oklahoma however we take to the road in March and provide the workshops in Woodward, McAlester, Bartlesville and Lawton. Please take time to attend these workshops and become accredited...it's the law.

As part of the Map Modernization process, Kay, Creek and Comanche Counties will have their Consultation Coordination Officer's (CCO) meetings in December. This will be the final meeting between the community, the OWRB, FEMA and the study contractor to review the results of the Study. A date will be set after the CCO meeting to begin the 90-day appeal period. Please contact the OWRB for more information on the time and location of these meetings.

(Continued from page 9 - Annual Conference Summary)

- Comprehensive, master, or general plans;
- Sub-area plans, such as specific plans, neighborhood plans, corridor plans, and downtown plans;
- Functional plans, such as plans for sewer, water, transit, housing, and open space;
- Land-use management tools, such as zoning, subdivision, planned unit development, and form-based codes;
- Review and approval of development projects;
- Capital improvements programming, including public investments in infrastructure, public buildings, and facilities.

The Missing Links

In many communities today, planners have either limited involvement and input into hazard mitigation plans or none at all. In some cases, the plans are the exclusive domain of emergency managers, or in small communities there may be no local planning staff. In other cases, planners may not yet have asserted a role in such planning, sometimes for lack of adequate familiarity with the subject matter.

Planners and emergency managers, in particular, must interact and communicate more in planning and implementing hazard mitigation. Establishing this link is essential if hazard mitigation is to be thoroughly integrated into local planning activities. Most hazard mitigation involves some element of land use or other planning activities, such as economic development, transportation, and historic preservation. Planners can provide vital input as well as assemble other vital input during the process of planning for effective hazard mitigation planning. For example, zoning and open space preservation are frequently essential tools in planning for flood mitigation. Establishing appropriate densities relative to slope is often essential in mitigating landslide hazards. There are many other examples.

To learn what communities have already accomplished in integrating hazard mitigation into planning, and how best to share the lessons from their experiences, APA will conduct a survey of best practices in coming months. Watch *interact* and this space for details as the project moves forward, and alert project manager Jim Schwab if your community or consulting firm has valuable information to share in this regard. Please contact the APA and Jim Schwab by email hazards@planning.org if you wish to learn more or have information to share.



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