

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

2025 Annual Conference Update

Brandon Claborn PE, CFM - OFMA Conference Co-Chair and Chandler Trotter, EI, CFM - BFE Editor

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The 2025 conference at the Reed Center in Midwest City was a standout Annual Conference. We appreciate everyone who contributed- the OFMA Board, speakers, sponsors, and attendees. Each of you play an essential role in making this event possible and improving the quality and member experience year after year. We hope the education sessions were beneficial and that everyone was able to take advantage of networking opportunities!

The conference opened with a ceremony presented by the Midwest City Junior ROTC, followed by welcoming remarks from Midwest City Mayor Matt Dukes. OFMA Chair Jesse Beck delivered an opening statement focused on the connections we have within our communities challenging all of us to recognize the value of our connections and the potential to impact not just our communities but the world! Jesse extended a warm welcome to all fall conference attendees.

Monday's keynote session highlighted the critical role of flood warning systems in storm preparedness and post-event model validation, presented by David Key of ESP Associates and Brandon Claborn of WSB. Chad Berginnis then provided a comprehensive update from ASFPM, including upcoming training opportunities and available resources. Jonathan Phillips shared the latest Oklahoma NFIP Program Report, and David Williams concluded the morning plenary with an update from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Monday afternoon included fourteen different presentations in three tracts on topics including Why Developments Flood, NOAA Atlas 15 and Temporal rainfall Distributions, and Rub-a-Dub-Dub: Detention with a Tub. Navigating Floodplain and Drainage Challenges for Transportation Projects, Collaboration and Community Engagement in Moffet, and Stormwater Management for Design Engineers. Impacting Lives by Hard Armoring against Extreme Weather Events, Supporting Community Resilience: Leveraging USACE FPMS Technical Services for Floodplain Management, and Advancing Flood Risk Mapping in Oklahoma: A 2D BLE Modeling Approach through FEMA CTP Program. Floodplain Map Revisions and Hydraulic Modeling: Common Mistakes and Steps to Avoid, Stormwater Utilities: Getting off the Funding Roller Coaster, Back to Basics in a Time of Changing Funding, From Storm to Impact: Using 2D Modeling to Understand the July 2025 Texas Flood, and an MS4 Round Table Discussion.

To cap off the first full day of the conference the new members and young professionals social was hosted by Bill Smith and Freese & Nichols. This was followed with the annual Vendor Social hosted by WSB with food sponsored by OFMA. Attendees enjoyed bowling, arcade games, laser tag, and karaoke.

Tuesday began early with OFMA Committee meetings, followed by Regional Representatives Meetings and an update from OEM's Director, Annie Vest.

Continued on Page 3



Words from the Chair

Kenny Schwab PE, SE, CFM | Chair
Assistant City Manager | City of Broken Arrow

Wow! What another great conference this past fall! Incredible turn out. Almost 300 people attended. A lot of participation from various backgrounds. Excellent speakers covering great topics. Jesse Beck did an outstanding job! Thank you, Jesse. I look forward to next year's conference.

Now that the conference is over, I am excited to report that our annual strategic retreat in October was extremely productive. We discussed a lot of topics and strategies on what and how OFMA should move forward in accordance with our vision and mission. One of the most important discussion points is the Leadership Pipeline.

OFMA has been such an incredible organization for 35 years now! We have stood on the work and efforts of our founders and those early pioneers since our beginning. They built an incredible organization that we all have enjoyed the benefits from through those years. We know, just like any corporation, that the power of the organization is you! It's the membership of that organization. As a member, you empower this organization to be a voice that encourages and supports flood-safe and stormwater-effective development, as well as provides effective flood and stormwater mitigation. We promote sound floodplain and stormwater management practices, including the natural and cultural benefits of the

floodplain and more effective and efficient reduction of stormwater impacts due to development. You empower this organization to be a light to others. Without your involvement, we are nothing. I encourage everyone in this organization to find a way to get involved. In truth, we need you!

Likewise, the strength of the organization is its leadership. The leaders help grow the power of the members and help guide us as one united voice. We have had a great history of tremendous leadership. We need that history to continue into our future. The Board is investigating and examining ways to expand the leadership opportunities within the organization. I believe there are new and exciting opportunities for others within this organization. Leadership takes you!

As a Board, we will bring some Constitutional amendments before the membership soon that is intended to provide more opportunities to meet a growing membership. Thank you for your participation. I look forward to a great year and a wonderful year.

Keep doing what you do to keep your community and this state safe!!

Save the Date

Spring Technical Workshop

April 7, 2026

River Spirit Casino Resort,
8330 Riverside Pkwy, Tulsa, OK 74137



Continued from Page 1

Our 2025-2026 Regional Representatives are:

- Region 1 — Mike Kimbro PE, CFM, ODOT
- Region 2 — Patrick Wilson PE, CFM, City of Broken Arrow
- Region 3 — Dennis Yochum, LeFlore County
- Region 4 — Johnny Barron PE, CFM, City of Altus
- Region 5 — Jacob Price PE, CFM, Garfield County

The morning continued with nine presentations on three tracks offered before lunch. The topics included: Turbulent Waters: Navigating through FEMA Violations, Empowering Communities through GIS: Free Tools for Flood Analysis and Planning, and Local Floodplain management and FEMA. The James River Walk Bank Stabilization Evaluation, Exploring Midwest City's Adventures in Stormwater Master Planning, and Section 1206 Best Practices: Lessons Learned from Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Transforming Oklahoma's Hazard Mitigation Program: A New Era of Effectiveness and Transparency, Hazard Mitigation Planning at the Local Level - Local Planning Guidance for Local Officials, and Grants 2025: The Current HMA Landscape for FEMA HM Funding.

Jesse Beck conducted our business lunch and asked attendees to get creative with a Lego activity. The afternoon continued with five more presentations. Basic Floodplain Management, When the Design Did Not Work: Funding Public-Private Stormwater Projects, and Mitigation\Emergency Management Round Table. Basic Floodplain Management and Addressing Stormwater Runoff Issues from Construction Activity. Morgan Lozoya and WSB hosted Minute to Win It, which was won by Team Garver.

Tuesday evening was our annual awards banquet, emceed by Brandon Claborn. OFMA's awards are an important way to celebrate leadership, dedication, and growth of our members and others that are critical to our roles in floodplain management. The following individuals were recognized at the banquet:

Calendar Contest Winners

1st Place – Skylar Girty, Maryetta
2nd Place – Zuri Rossman, MacArthur Elementary
3rd Place – Paisley Mote, Bridge Creek Intermediate
Honorable Mention – Aiyana Woods, Bridge Creek Intermediate

Scholarship Winners

Joe Lozoya- Oklahoma School of Science and Math

Outstanding Recognition Award

Lucky Airehrour, CFM- Tulsa County
Kerrick Edenborough, CFM- Tulsa County
John Feary- City of Claremore
Chandler Trotter, EI, CFM- WSB
Rev. W.B. Smith, PE, CFM- HISINC

J. Gavin Brady Floodplain Manager of the Year Award

Tonde Christian- Texas County

W. Kenneth Morris Honorary Lifetime Member Award

Tony Robinson- FEMA

R.D. Flanagan Gold Project Award

Town of Moffet- Property Acquisition; Gold Project Award
City of Norman – Bishop Creek Watershed Basin Plan;
Platinum Project Award

Chairperson's Award

Michael Galloway, CFM- Custer County

Public Official of the Year

Mayor John Kelley – City of Barnsdall

Ben Frizzel Media Award

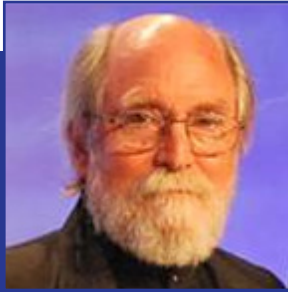
Graham Dowers and Jordan Fremstad- News 9

Service Recognition

Jesse Beck, EI, CFM- Ponca City

Oklahoma Emergency Management's David Ball opened Wednesday with a thought-provoking presentation on OK-TF1's Dual Disasters and What They Teach The presentation dove into response during the floods in North Carolina and Texas. This was followed by Rain, Trash and Trouble: Understanding Landfill Liquids and Why It Matters given by Steve Linehan, PE. Nicole McGavok from NWS closed Wednesday morning's session with a presentation on National Weather Service Flood Forecasting and Warning Services.

Thanks again to all who participated. We look forward to seeing you at the Osage Casino Hotel in Tulsa in 2026. If you have suggestions that will improve future conferences, please reach out to your regional representative, myself or any of our board members.



OFMA DRT Corner

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

Let's take a little quiz this month – just to keep you on your toes!! We did this 5 Years ago and we have a number of new FPAs. Let's try it again.

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

Answers on Page 5

From ASFPM - An Emergency Manager's Quick Guide to Floodplain Management

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) have released "**An Emergency Manager's Quick Guide to Floodplain Management**". According to these agencies, the guide can be used by emergency managers to navigate floodplain management from interpreting floodplain maps and regulations to identifying and implementing flood mitigation measures. The guide also includes a guide to partnering with local and state floodplain administrators who play an essential role in the recovery process.

Read more and download the guide here: [New Guide Helps Emergency Managers Lead Smart Flood Recovery](#)

Upcoming Trainings from the CRS Webinar Series Classes are at 12:00 PM Central

Date	Topic
December 9	2025 CRS Coordinator's Manual: Summary of Changes
December 10	Preparing for a Verification Visit

Visit: [Training & Videos - CRSresources](#)

Continued from Page 4

Answers:

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

Thank you to our Corporate Partners!

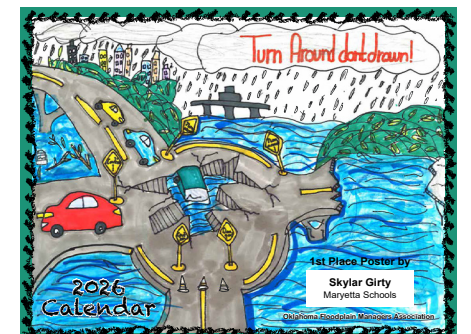


If you are interested in partnering with us please contact
Carolyn Schultz at cschultz@cimtel.net



We Still Have a Few Boxes of the
2026 Turn Around Don't Drown
Calendars Are Available for Pickup

WSB
416 S Utica, Tulsa, OK 74104
Call or come by to get yours!
918.698.6699



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2025 Spring Technical Update

Brandon Claborn PE, CFM - OFMA Conference Co-Chair

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The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) has a long-standing reputation for organizing exceptional conferences and workshops, and this year's Spring Technical Workshop was no exception. Held on April 3, 2025, at the River Spirit Casino, the event centered around the theme "Protecting Our Communities."

The workshop commenced with a warm welcome, invocation, and the National Anthem, followed by updates from key figures: Jesse Beck, EI, CFM, OFMA Chair; John Dean from ODEMHS; Jon Phillips, CFM, State NFIP Coordinator, OWRB; and Kenneth Schwab, who provided a ONE Water Update.

The morning plenary session delved straight into the workshop theme. John Dean and Greg Eaton from ODEMHS presented on "Preparing for Flood Recovery". John Ferry from the City of Claremore shared an insightful and moving account of "The City of Claremore's Response to a Natural Disaster" highlighting the challenges.

Attendees enjoyed a plated lunch, providing ample time for networking.

The afternoon featured breakout sessions across three tracks: Using Data to Protect, Tools that Protect, and Creative Solutions. The following presentations were delivered:

- Keith Byrne from Freese and Nichols presented "Flowing Beyond the Model: Resilience, Restoration, and Floodplains - Part 1" and "Part 2."
- Alan Dennis, PE, CFM, from Garver Engineers discussed "Atlas 15 - Building Resilience to the Impact of Extreme Precipitation."
- Larry Curtis, CFM, from the City of Bartlesville shared insights on "AI Assistance in Flood Warning Systems."
- Chris Hill from WSB presented on "GIS Tools for Hazard Mitigation Planning and Floodplain Management."
- Ron DeVaux from Watershed Geo discussed "Stormwater Infrastructure Erosion Projection Technology Options."
- Rachael Cooper, PE, CFM, from Cross Timbers presented "Old School and New School Meet at a Drop Basin."
- Austin Dugger, PE, CFM, from Freese and Nichols shared "Stephens Park - When the Rockets Don't Ship...We Keep It!"
- Dr. Carrie Evenson, PE, CFM, from Midwest City highlighted the "Value of Community Partnerships."
- Kenny Schwab and Patrick Wilson from the City of Broken Arrow concluded the day with discussions on "Case Study: When Development Isn't Working...You Must Work Harder" and "Case Study: Implementing OKR10 under Difficult Circumstances."
- A special thank you goes to Vice Chair Kenny Schwab and everyone who contributed to making this year's workshop a success.

A special thank you goes to Vice Chair Kenny Schwab and everyone who contributed to making this year's workshop a success.



Letter from the Chair

Jesse Beck EI, CFM | Chair |
Assistant City Engineer and GIS Manager | City of Ponca City

A message from OFMA's Chair

Jesse Beck is the Assistant City Engineer and GIS Manager for the City of Ponca City. He is also the City's CRS coordinator and recently successfully defended the City's status as a CRS Class 5 Community. Jesse started school at the University of Missouri–Rolla in Civil Engineering but completed a degree in Geology and Geophysics – the first in a series of interesting life choices. Fifteen years of working in the environmental realm exposed him to GIS work, which he fell in love with, and he finally took a full time job managing Ponca City's GIS. When the Assistant City Engineer job later became available, he saw a chance to set an old wrong to right and at age 41 relearned how to factor a polynomial and passed the FE exam.

His day-to-day work includes designing and managing road and drainage construction projects, reviewing proposed developments, addressing floodplain inquiries, seeing to the varied demands of the CRS, maintaining the City's GIS, and discovering ways to integrate new data and share the system with City users.

Welcome to another installment of the BFE!

Listen, you're busy and I'm busy, so I'll keep this brief. I want to thank everyone who made our Spring Technical Conference the biggest yet. It was exciting (and yes, a little terrifying) to see so many faces, both familiar and new, in the crowd. As always, it was a team effort, and OFMA has the best team around for getting things done. We might overthink it. We might wait until the last possible second. We might even panic a little. But we get it done with style and class every. Single. Time. I also want to thank those of you who heard my plea to get more involved and have reached out. There's still plenty of room for your voice at our table, so please, if you're on the fence about coming to a meeting, give me or someone else on the Board a call and let's make that happen!

You've heard about a lot of uncertainty lately. Changes at FEMA and other agencies have us all wondering how federal dollars will circulate in the future. Regulations and priorities are shifting and that leaves us wondering if the laws and guidelines we use today will still be in place tomorrow. And AI is waiting in the aisle to change everything that's not being changed by man. It's a weird time to be alive, for sure.

But one thing that's nice about our field is that it's unlikely any government, computer program, or person is going to change evaporation, condensation, and gravity. It's still going to rain. That rain is still going to go downhill. And people will still need to be cautious of floodwater. Oklahomans have died in floods in the past month, tragic in its needlessness. This just underscores the challenge we all face and gives real meaning and urgency to our jobs regardless of outside changes. Help get us energized!

Call me at 580.761.0021 and tell me how you want to save a life today.

Jesse

Oklahoma MS4s Prepare for TMDL Implementation

Morgan Lozoya PE, CFM | OFMA Stormwater Chair | WSB H&H Project Engineer



MS4s across Oklahoma are preparing for the rollout of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements for various streams, bringing with it a wave of new monitoring and reporting obligations. Under the 2021 OKR04 permit, which took effect on June 1, 2021, a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) must be in place before any sampling can begin.

For many communities, especially smaller ones with limited staff, this has proven to be a major challenge. A QAPP not only requires review and approval by a qualified third-party reviewer before sampling begins, but also mandates that any significant changes throughout the life of the plan go through the same review process. On top of that, each QAPP must be overseen by a Quality Assurance Manager (QAM) who cannot directly report to the MS4 program manager, leaving many small teams scrambling to meet the requirements.

However, there's some relief on the horizon. ODEQ has confirmed that the QAPP requirement will only apply if an MS4 wants to use its sampling data to revise or remove a TMDL designation. Furthermore, ODEQ has indicated they plan to serve as the third-party reviewer for QAPPs, helping ease the burden on communities wishing to have a QAPP and trying to stay compliant. Join us at the Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop to hear from agency representatives and learn more about the changing requirements and upcoming OKR04 permit changes.

2025 SAVE THE DATES

Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop

July 17, 2024

Gaillardia Country Club
5300 Gaillardia Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73142

Annual Conference

September 21-24, 2025

Reed Conference Center
5750 Will Rogers Rd.
Midwest City, OK 73110

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

OFMA appreciates all the hard work of teachers, parents, and many others who supported this year's poster contest.

The students who entered also deserve our thanks.

We hope that by working together to spread the Turn Around Don't Drown® message. Floodwaters will harm fewer people in Oklahoma.

This year, more than 207 participants submitted their beautiful artwork.



CONTEST WINNERS

1st Place - Skylar Girty, Maryetta Schools

2nd Place - Zuri Rossman, MacArthur Elementary

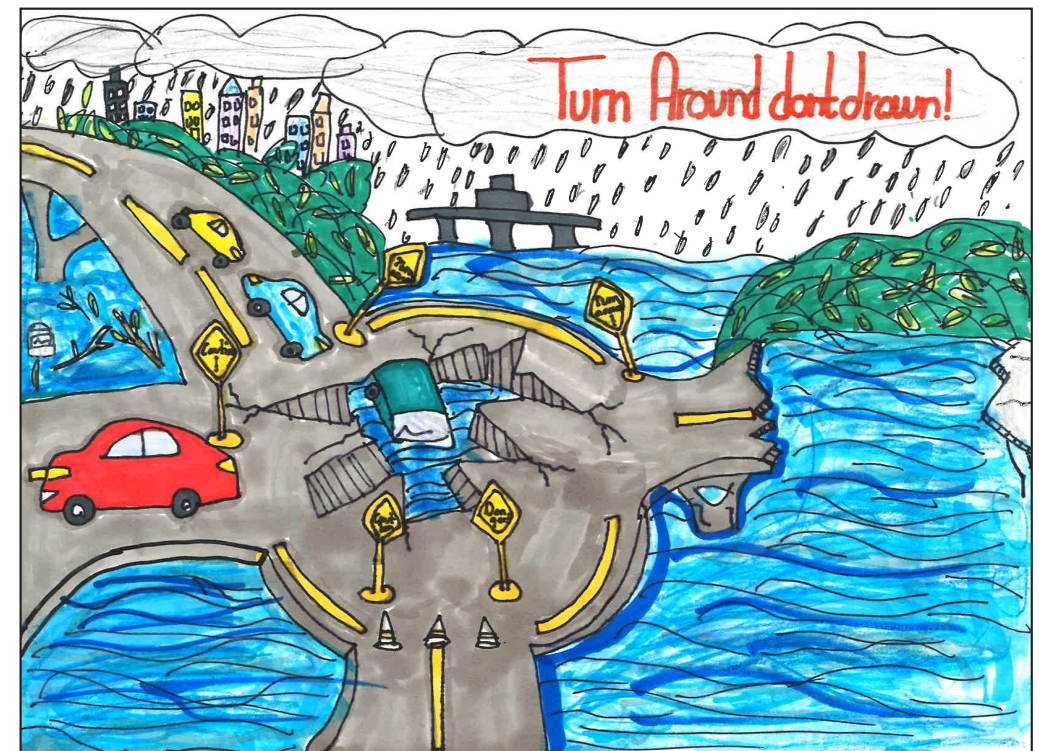
3rd Place - Paisley Mote, Bridge Creek Intermediate

Honorable Mention - Aiyana Woods, Bridge Creek Intermediate

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

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

- Adair Public Schools
- Bearden Elementary
- Bridge Creek Intermediate
- Canton Elementary
- Catalayah Elementary
- Hilldale Elementary
- Kiefer Public Schools
- Lincoln Elementary
- MacArthur Elementary
- Maryetta School
- Pernell Elementary
- Stone Canyon Elementary



1st Place - Skylar Girty, Maryetta Schools



2nd Place - Zuri Rossman, MacArthur Elementary



3rd Place - Paisley Mote, Bridge Creek Intermediate



Honorable Mention - Aiyana Woods, Bridge Creek Intermediate



Be the Calm in the Chaos – Navigating the Current World of Federal Grants

Wendi Lemons MEP | WSB | Sr. Planning and Grants Project Manager
Certification Committee, Community Planning & Econ. Dev.

Whether you are a municipality who relies on Federal Grant Funding for infrastructure repairs and equipment purchases or a consultant who writes grants for a living, the current federal grants environment feels a bit like guiding a small boat through rough seas. Constant changes in funding priorities, guidance updates, and evolving program requirements can make even the most seasoned professionals feel like they will never reach shore. In this environment, it's easy to feel caught between the pressure to stay compliant and the urgency to serve our communities effectively. This chaos, however, provides a unique opportunity to lead with clarity and purpose. It's up to us to seize it.

Remaining informed is one of the most effective ways to maintain control and confidence. Whether you're drafting proposals, managing awards, or supporting policy implementation, being proactive about updates from federal agencies, OMB guidance, and relevant training opportunities can help cut through the noise. Proactive information gathering can help you chart a more stable course.

Tuning into trusted sources, engaging with peers, and keeping a close eye on updates from federal agencies can empower you to make clear-headed decisions. Staying grounded in facts, rather than speculation, helps to replace anxiety with action. Even small habits, like setting aside time each week to review updates or attend a webinar, can make a big difference.

Building habits of regular communication—within teams, with funders, and across departments—creates a culture of awareness and preparedness. Staying current doesn't mean absorbing every headline, but rather focusing on what's relevant, timely, and actionable for your work.

Most importantly, remain calm and stay your course. Right your ship to regain stability if you must. The turbulence we see today won't last forever, and maintaining a steady mindset will help you lead with clarity and resilience. Your mission doesn't change just because the environment does—and your commitment to community impact, equity, and service will carry you through. Amidst all the noise, there is still meaningful work to be done, and by staying informed and focused, you'll be in a strong position to keep moving forward, even when the path is uncertain.



May is Flood Awareness Month in Oklahoma

Cheyenne Reynolds CFM | Oklahoma Water Resource Board |
CTP Coordinator

During May, Oklahoma's "Flood Awareness Month," the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB), the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association, and Governor Kevin Stitt are calling on all Oklahomans to be flood prepared.

While much of Oklahoma continues to face drought conditions, it is important to remember that when the ground is hard, floods can and do occur quickly even during otherwise dry conditions – a reality that helps make flash flooding the most common natural disaster in the U.S.

Before a flood, Oklahomans should determine if they live in or near a floodplain, check their flood insurance status, learn the flood warning system in their community, and find the safest route from their home to higher ground. Other preparations include the following:

- Make a list of your possessions. You should itemize your personal property, such as clothing, furnishings, and other valuables. Photos of your property are also helpful. Make copies of important documents.
- Keep a battery-operated radio and flashlight ready and in good working order.
- Have emergency food, water, and medical supplies on hand.
- Keep valuables, legal documents, and insurance policies safe.

During a flood, water levels and flow can quickly change. Remain aware and monitor local radio and television outlets. Avoid floodwater on foot or by vehicle at all costs. Evacuate immediately when water starts to rise. Other factors to be considered during a flood include the following:

- Don't walk through floodwater. It only takes 6 inches of moving water to knock you off your feet. Floodwater may hide submerged electric lines, waste/chemicals, or other harmful debris.
- If you are trapped by moving water, move to the highest possible point and call 911.
- Turn Around Don't Drown! Do NOT drive into flooded roadways or around a barricade. 12 inches of water can float a car or small SUV, and 18 inches can carry away large vehicles.

After a flood, Oklahomans should stay tuned to local news for updated information on road conditions, water quality issues, and other public directives regarding the flood disaster area. Here are some additional things to consider following a flood:

- Ensure water is safe to drink, cook, or clean with after a flood. Authorities may ask you to boil water for a while after a flood. If you have a domestic water use well that was flooded, a water quality test is strongly encouraged.
- Heed "Road Closed" signs and other traffic control measures and do not visit disaster areas. Your presence may hamper rescue and other emergency operations.
- Do not enter a flood damaged home or building until you are given the "all clear" by authorities. Before entering, make sure the electrical system has been turned off.
- Have the power company or a qualified electrician fix wires. Contact your insurance agent to discuss property damage. If you have a generator, follow proper safety procedures.

For more information, visit: <http://www.oklahoma.gov/owrb> OR <https://www.floodsmart.gov/>.



OKLAHOMA Water Resources Board

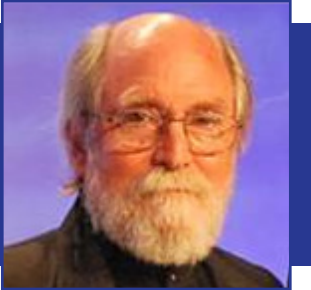
Below are some upcoming training opportunities. The **OFMA Special Topics** course is hosted by OFMA staff and features a wide array of speakers and topics. Some of covered topics include floodplain management ethics, stormwater management, flood resilience, hazard mitigation planning, post disaster event and rural floodplain management.

If you have questions please contact Cheyenne Reynolds, cheyenne.reynolds@owrb.ok.gov

OWRB-Floodplain Management 202	May 7	OHP Training Center 3600 N. MLK Blvd., OKC, OK 73111
OFMA Special Topics	May 7	OHP Training Center 3600 N. MLK Blvd., OKC, OK 73111
OWRB-Floodplain Management 101	August 12	OHP Training Center 3600 N. MLK Blvd., OKC, OK 73111
OFMA Special Topics	August 12	OHP Training Center 3600 N. MLK Blvd., OKC, OK 73111
OWRB-Floodplain Management 101	August 19	Central Park Main 1500 S Main, Broken Arrow, OK
OFMA Special Topics	August 19	Central Park Main 1500 S Main, Broken Arrow, OK
OWRB-Floodplain Management 101	September 9	GRDA GRDA Eco Center. 420 HWY 28. Langley, OK 74350

OFMA DRT Corner

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



Each year in this BFE, I always tell you to get ready for Spring Floods. Over the winter, you should have cleaned out the bar ditches and culverts of trees and underbrush, and removed debris so the spring runoff will have a place to flow without overtopping banks of the creeks, potentially causing flooded roadways and structures.

I also recommend that your community pre-register with the OFMA DRT so if you do have any type of natural disaster in the Special Flood Hazard Area and you need to have Substantial Damage Assessments performed you can just call and not have to go through emergency procedures to allow the DRT to volunteers come and help your community. Call or email me if you don't know what I am referring to. So, I again give you this reminder.

But I also want to give you my 2 cents on the action that was taken on Friday April 4th by the current Federal Administration. FEMA has announced it is terminating the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and canceling all BRIC grant applications from Fiscal Years 2020–2023. Any undisbursed funds will be returned to the Disaster Relief Fund or the U.S. Treasury.

ASFPM Executive Director Chad Berginnis responded to the decision, stating:

On Friday, FEMA announced that it is ending the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and canceling all BRIC applications from Fiscal Years 2020-2023. If grant funds have not been distributed to states, tribes, territories and local communities, funds will be immediately returned either to the Disaster Relief Fund or the U.S. Treasury. It has also canceled the fiscal year 2024 notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), where \$750 million in grants was to be allocated.

"The decision to dismantle FEMA's largest pre-disaster mitigation program is beyond reckless," said ASFPM Executive Director Chad Berginnis. "Although ASFPM has had some qualms about how FEMA's BRIC program was implemented, it was still a cornerstone of our nation's hazard mitigation strategy, and the agency has worked to make improvements each year. Eliminating it entirely — mid-award cycle, no less — defies common sense. Cutting funding from projects already underway will leave states and communities scrambling, increasing disaster risk to families and businesses instead of reducing it. The impact of this decision will be felt for decades to come."

Continuous updates are coming out, including guidance on next steps for outstanding BRIC projects impacted by these changes, which was released on April 16th, 2025. To find the latest FEMA advisories visit: [Newsroom | FEMA.gov](#). To read the full article and view ASFPM's resources, visit: [FEMA Ends BRIC Program, Leaving States in the Lurch](#).

Many of our communities have relied upon FEMA BRIC, FMA, PMA, HMGP and other grants over the years to mitigate flood damage which allows our communities to be more resilient to future flood damage. The dismantling of FEMA is wrong in my opinion. The Administration wants the states to take over disaster response and FEMA responsibilities. However, if the purpose of dismantling FEMA is to use those funds for other issues, then that money would likely not go to the states to create 52 mini-FEMAs. The states are responsible but building up a mini-FEMA program for Disaster response, like FEMA provided will take time and \$\$\$\$\$\$.

I suggest that you write to your Congressmen and Senators and express your opinions. ASFPM has a sample letter. If you are not an ASFPM member you cannot download it, but I can and will and send it to you. Follow updates from FEMA and continue to rely on reputable sources for guidance when making decisions. If you have BRIC/FMA grants, review the dashboard ([Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Flood Mitigation Assistance Obligations Dashboard: National](#)) to see how these changes impact your community.

Be careful out there this spring. We already have had very early flooding so this may be a bad springtime.

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The BFE*

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2025 Stormwater Technical Update

Brandon Claborn PE, CFM - OFMA Conference Co-Chair

Chandler Trotter, EI, CFM - BFE Editor

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On July 16, stormwater professionals from across Oklahoma gathered at the Gaillardia Country Club in Oklahoma City for the annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop. Now in its second year at this venue, the workshop once again had strong attendance, and a program full of timely and informative presentations, combined excellent facilities.

The event started with an opening plenary and a warm welcome from Jesse Beck, EI, CFM, OFMA Chair.

Clint Johnson from Green County Stormwater Alliance (GCSA) and Hollie Throne from Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance (COSWA) began with an introduction to their respective agencies and the support they provide. Then, Miles Mungle from ODEQ updated us on what is new at the department including OKR04 Updates. We heard from Dr. Jason Vogel, PhD, PE, with the University of Oklahoma and Dr. Jamie Schussler, with Oklahoma State University, who highlighted the mission of the Great Plains Stormwater Center of Excellence.

The last session before lunch was given by Professor Emeritus John Gulliver with the University of Minnesota. He joined remotely to share insights on how climate change may affect urban stormwater infrastructure, with a focus on rainfall trends and detention strategies. His talk encouraged thoughtful discussion among attendees.

After a networking lunch, attendees joined breakout sessions focused on LID/Green Infrastructure, Inspections and Reporting, and Research Topics.

- The LID/Green Infrastructure session, moderated by Carrie Evenson from Midwest City, with presentations by Michelle Chao and Katrina Boteler, City of Norman, on the Watershed Based Plan for Bishop Creek; Jesse Clark with Stream Landscape Architecture + Planning, discussed finding the balance when stacking green infrastructure projects; and Dr. Jason Vogel, OU, and Jacob Burton, Olsson, covered using LID for flood control in Oklahoma.
- The Inspections and Reporting session, moderated by Morgan Lozoya from WSB, included presentations Myles Mungle with

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Letter from the Editor

Chandler Trotter EI, CFM | BFE Editor
H&H Graduate Engineer | WSB LLC

Welcome back to the quarterly BFE Newsletter! I'm excited to introduce myself as your new BFE Editor.

I am a Water Resource Engineer with WSB in my third year of experience in this industry. As one of OFMA's newer members, I'm grateful to be part of an organization that works so hard to lift up its members - providing not only ample training and technical resources but also lasting connections between professionals in this field.

In July, I was lucky enough to attend another successful Stormwater Quality Technical Conference. Morgan Lozoya and the conference team deserve recognition for their hard work to ensure this event is always high quality and impactful for our membership. The turnout and energy showed just how much our members believe in OFMA's vision of integrating stormwater quantity and quality management.

As summer begins to wind down, we look forward to our annual conference in Midwest City. The conference theme "Impacting Lives" serves as an opportunity to return to the fundamentals of floodplain management, because beyond the mapping and regulatory efforts, our work ultimately centers on protecting the people in our communities.

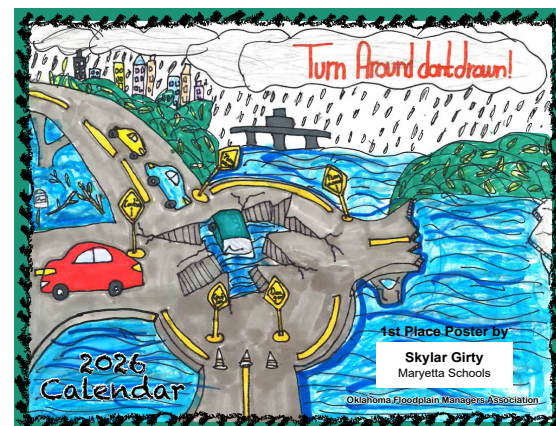
There is still time to register, more information on that is contained on our website.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and as always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions. chandler.trotter@wsbeng.com

Chandler



The 2026 Turn Around Don't Drown Calendars Are Available for Pickup



WSB

1437 S Boulder Ave, No 1550
Tulsa, OK 74119

Call or come by to get yours! 918.698.6699

Continued on Page 1

ODEQ, who shared updates on OKR04 e-reporting features, and Treasure Agbonkhese, WSB, who demonstrated GIS story map tools for stormwater management.

- The Research Topics session, moderated by Dr. Jason Vogel from the University of Oklahoma and Dr. Jaime Schussler from Oklahoma State University, showcased a variety of stormwater management research topics presented by M.S. student of Oklahoma State University: Madelynn Henderson, Brittany Moehnke, Megan Ryan, Kalen Rigdon, and Elena Hobbs.

The afternoon session continued with two plenary speakers. The first presentation was from Allison Whitsitt, CEM, WSB; she shared key fundamentals to keep in mind when navigating changing funding opportunities.

Kenneth Schwab PE, SE, CFM and Sarah Walters PE, CFM, City of Broken Arrow, presented the outcomes of the Florence Park Restoration which balances water quantity and quality considerations.

A special thank you goes to SWQ Chair Morgan Lozoya and those who helped make this year's workshop successful.

OFMA 2025 Annual Conference

September 22-24, 2025

Reed Conference Center
5750 Will Rogers Rd
Midwest City, OK 73110

OKLAHOMA

FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

2025 OFMA Annual Conference: *Impacting Lives*

[Registration](#) is Open Now!

[Visit our website for more details!](#)



OWRB Welcomes Bailey Williams



New OWRB staff member Bailey Williams is originally from the small town of Okay in Northeastern Oklahoma. Growing up in a rural area with few distractions, Bailey spent countless hours outdoors fishing, exploring the prairie, and swimming- experiences that sparked a lifelong interest in environmental science and sustainability. That passion eventually led Bailey to the University of Oklahoma, where she received a degree in Environmental Sustainability. The interdisciplinary nature of the program equipped Bailey to examine environmental challenges from social, scientific, and economic perspectives.

Outside of work, Bailey enjoys photography, hiking, painting, traveling, cooking, and spending time with friends and family. Now, as a member of OWRB Floodplain Management, Bailey is excited to apply her education and prior work experience to help communities across Oklahoma become more resilient to flooding events. She looks forward to contributing to the team's mission and making a positive impact across the state.

After Brief Delay, NOAA's Atlas 15 Project Moves Ahead

Originally published in ASFPM News & Views

By [News Editor](#) August 11, 2025

NOAA has confirmed that they are moving forward on Atlas 15, both Volume 1 and Volume 2. Continuation of this project is important as NOAA Atlas 15 will become the authoritative source for precipitation frequency information across the United States. The Trump administration had paused contracts for work on Atlas 15 for about a month earlier this year.

Volume 1 will provide a snapshot of current estimates updated to account for temporal changes in historical observations while Volume 2 will provide model-based precipitation frequency estimates projected into the future. When published, NOAA Atlas 15 Volume 1 will supersede the current NOAA Atlas 14 precipitation frequency estimates.

Projected timeline for Atlas 15 completion: Contiguous United States (CONUS)

The lower 48 states

- 2025 – Preliminary estimates available for peer review and feedback
- 2026 – Published estimates available for use and application

Outside the Contiguous United States (CONUS)

Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Pacific Islands and Guam

- 2026 – Preliminary estimates available for peer review and feedback
- 2027 – Published estimates available for use and application

You can find out more about the NOAA Atlas 15 project and a pilot study for Montana that was released in 2024 at [NOAA's website](#)

From Alert to Aftermath: Navigating Severe Weather as a Community

Allisin Whitsitt | WSB LLC | Director, Emergency Management



When severe weather strikes, taking swift and informed action is crucial to ensure safety and minimize storm risks. Being prepared and knowing how to respond effectively can make a significant difference.

■ **Stay Indoors & Seek Shelter:** During severe weather, it's essential to follow your preparedness plan by sheltering in a designated safe space, such as a basement or an interior room without windows. If you're in a public location, avoid large open rooms like gymnasiums and seek shelter away from windows and glass doors. For those caught outdoors, do not attempt to drive, especially in dangerous weather like tornadoes or flash floods. Instead, find sturdy shelter to reduce storm risks. Stay away from overpasses, trees, or other unsecured structures that could pose a risk. If no shelter is available, lie flat in a low-lying area while covering your head and neck.

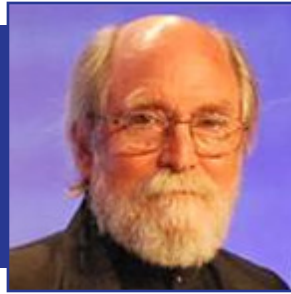


■ **Stay Alert & Informed:** Staying informed during severe weather is critical to managing storm risks. Keep a charged cell phone and a backup battery handy. This ensures you can receive updates and stay connected. Invest in a NOAA Weather Radio to receive real-time emergency broadcasts, even if cellular networks fail. While social media and local emergency management pages can provide valuable updates, they should not be your sole source of information. This is due to the potential for misinformation or network outages. Ensure notifications for weather alerts are enabled on your phone to stay updated on warnings and advisories in your area.

■ **Avoid Complacency:** Severe weather often brings multiple alerts over time, leading to what's commonly known as "weather fatigue." This constant barrage of warnings can cause people to ignore subsequent alerts, assuming the danger has passed. However, severe weather patterns are unpredictable and can change rapidly, making it crucial to treat each warning seriously to mitigate storm risks. Always listen to official directives, even if the situation seems stable, as conditions can escalate without warning.

■ **Aftermath & Recovery Resources:** The aftermath of severe weather can be challenging and require time and effort to recover. Local Emergency Managers are often the first to provide assistance, helping with debris removal, temporary relief efforts, and damage reporting to state and federal agencies. Understanding storm risks is important because immediate assistance might not be available for up to 72 hours. This is because response teams mobilize resources. To facilitate quicker recovery, document all damage by taking photos and videos of your property before discarding any damaged items. These records, along with receipts for repairs or replacements, can be invaluable for insurance claims or applications for disaster assistance.

Beyond personal recovery, building community resilience is a vital part of preparedness. When individuals and families have a plan, and encourage others to develop their own, the entire community benefits. A resilient community can respond more effectively to crises, reduce storm risks, and recover more quickly. Preparedness extends beyond individual safety—it strengthens the bonds within neighborhoods and fosters a collective effort to face and overcome challenges together.



OFMA DRT Corner

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

The heat of summer is upon us and the funding from FEMA for Mitigation has dried up. So where do communities go now with continuing disasters plaguing our communities, throughout the United States,, and even the world.

Different approaches seem to be emerging. Texas, for example, has assisted local communities over the past weeks with funds for recovery from the devastating disaster in Kerr County in the Hill Country of Texas. But states like Louisiana are stricken with the loss of historic support from FEMA.

Oklahoma is looking for some funding support for mitigation through Annie Vest's efforts at DEM, but if the State of Oklahoma were to have another 1986 or 1993 or 2022 series of flood events, there probably is not enough available funding to help all.

Our OFMA DRT responded to the City of Morris in late May 2025 that had many structures flooded, only to find out that only two of the structures were in the regulatory SFHA. All of the other structures were flooded by stormwater issues, not designated floodplain issues.

Over the past 15 years we are finding more and more flooding outside the SFHA, and most is likely from stormwater issues – inadequate storm drainage systems – pipes, culverts, bar ditches; while some are caused by higher intensity, short duration rainfall events that dump a lot of rainfall in a very short time. The historic drainage systems were not intended or designed for these types of events.

I believe our communities need to rethink disaster preparedness and disaster response. Looking forward, funds need to be allocated for maintenance of our drainage systems on an annual basis, along with funding for capital improvements to upgrade these antiquated drainage systems. Will it be easy – NO, Will it cost our citizens in each community more – YES. Will there be Federal funding opportunities – WHO KNOWS?

I also believe that to begin or continue to be sustainable and resilient communities we need to take it upon ourselves to care for our communities – not solely rely on the Federal Government as has been done historically. FEMA may or may not go away, and future funding for Mitigation – such a BRIC (that has been eliminated) is sorely needed by many communities throughout the United States, including Oklahoma. Maybe future Administrations will be able to make a comeback through an updated version of FEMA to support our citizens in a responsible and prudent manner.

REMINDER – Do your ditch and culvert cleaning – It does make a difference!!

Congratulations to the 2025 New CFMs

Anthony Hamilton P.E., CFM - Envirotech Engineering & Consulting

Travis Godeaux P.E., CFM - Guy Engineering

Chandler Trotter EI, CFM - WSB LLC

FEMA Updates Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide

From FEMA.gov



FEMA

The Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide (PDA Guide) is a standard framework for how emergency management officials conduct preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) following a disaster.

The [2025 Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide](#), dated July 1, 2025 is in effect for events with incident periods from July 1, 2025 and after. For periods from July 2024-June 2025 the PDA Operational Guide Draft should be the guidance utilized. For a complete list of changes to the Guide, please refer to the [Summary of Changes](#).

The [2025 Preliminary Damage Assessment Pocket Guide](#) is a supplement to the full PDA Guide and provides high level guidance that can be used as a reference in the field.

Visit FEMA's [YouTube channel](#) to watch a video series on the PDA process.

Thank you to our Corporate Partners!



If you are interested in partnering with us please contact
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2024 Annual Conference Update

Brandon Claborn PE, CFM - OFMA Conference Co-Chair

The 2024 conference at the Choctaw Casino, Tulsa, was a resounding success. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make it happen; the OFMA Board, speakers, sponsors, and attendees all play a crucial role in having a successful conference. The educational content was valuable, and everyone enjoyed the networking opportunities. This conference set a record with 290 attendees!

The conference began with an opening ceremony presentation by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard and a warm welcome from our OFMA Chair, Carrie J. Evenson. Michael Kimbro gave an update on the OFMA History Initiative he has been working on with Ken Morris. Zack Henson, our Keynote Speaker, gave a back-by-popular-demand presentation on the City of Stillwater Watershed Management Program. Jonathan Phillips reported on the yearly highlights and future priorities of the Oklahoma NFIP Program. Grant Moore and I shared some background on AI and ChatGPT, Not Just for Your Kids Homework, followed by fun examples and serious applications in our industry. The morning plenary session finished with Darrin Dutton and Shari Anglin sharing What's New in FEMA Floodplain Training and Assessing Your Training Needs.



Zack Henson, Keynote Speaker

CONTINUED ON PG. 2



Letter from the Chair

Jesse Beck EI, CFM | Chair |
Assistant City Engineer and GIS Manager | City of Ponca City

A message from OFMA's Chair

Jesse Beck is the Assistant City Engineer and GIS Manager for the City of Ponca City. He is also the City's CRS coordinator and recently successfully defended the City's status as a CRS Class 5 Community. Jesse started school at the University of Missouri–Rolla in Civil Engineering but completed a degree in Geology and Geophysics – the first in a series of interesting life choices. Fifteen years of working in the environmental realm exposed him to GIS work, which he fell in love with, and he finally took a full time job managing Ponca City's GIS. When the Assistant City Engineer job later became available, he saw a chance to set an old wrong to right and at age 41 relearned how to factor a polynomial and passed the FE exam.

His day-to-day work includes designing and managing road and drainage construction projects, reviewing proposed developments, addressing floodplain inquiries, seeing to the varied demands of the CRS, maintaining the City's GIS, and discovering ways to integrate new data and share the system with City users.

Writing these letters is harder than you might guess. Looking back over past chairs' letters for inspiration, I notice a common theme: Hope. Hope and excitement about the year ahead, about the organization, and about our own contribution to both. You've been hearing about some upcoming changes to OFMA. Additional members, additional subjects, changes to the bylaws and the constitution. Some people have expressed concern that we could suffer mission drift; that expanding the organization dilutes the core reasons we first formed. I don't think that's true.

OFMA is like a living, breathing organism. And just like the organism writing this letter, it is composed of smaller parts that are born, grow, and move on. I turn 50 this year. Young to some of you, but not long ago all of us thought it was impossibly old. It's an age when we start to think about legacy, and how our contributions to society will be remembered after we're done crafting them. One of my first jobs with the City was to archive old project files. I scanned and documented hundreds of street projects, projects of concrete and steel; projects meant to stand the test of time. And many of them already torn out and replaced by newer concrete and steel, no doubt designed by people who also thought their legacy was secure, at least at this one intersection.

OFMA sits at a time where legacy is important, too. The decisions we make today will have lasting consequences. Not permanent, because nothing is truly permanent, but important nonetheless. We have outgrown meeting locations like Quartz Mountain and smaller casinos, but we're not yet big enough to fill the bigger venues. The cost for everything has skyrocketed. Volunteers are harder to come by today, and every year another of our tasks becomes a for-hire job.

But the thing I love most about OFMA is the dedication of its members. We always pull together. Three years ago, I believe, we had our vendor social out in a park. At the end of the evening, without anyone asking, all of us joined together and made a project of loading the dozens of tables and hundreds of chairs back into the truck. That sense of community and of ownership is exactly why I love OFMA and is exactly what I hope to continue during my brief time as Chair.

Welcome to a new year. This year may be exciting, or daunting, with changes in Federal policies. But the dedication, resourcefulness, and energy of OFMA's members ensure that we continue to assist one another to protect the people from the water, and protect the water from the people throughout Oklahoma.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

Monday afternoon included eleven different presentations in three tracts on topics including Using ArcGIS Hub and Dashboards for Flood Response Management, Watershed Flood Control Structure Easement Mapping Projects, and City of Norman's Blue Neighborhoods Initiative. Stream Protection and Beyond, BRIC by BRIC - Building a funding application for the Muscogee Nation, Funding Stormwater Quality Projects and Nature Based Solutions, El Reno's Drainage Master Plan, A Multi-year Drainage Improvement Master Plan, Where Greens Meet Streams, Failing Storm Drain Pipes, Planning Tool for Climate Hazards v2.0, and New NWS Services in Oklahoma.

Monday evening included a gathering for new OFMA members sponsored by Freese & Nichols, followed by the always-popular Monday Night Vendor Social. Meshek sponsored games and bowling at the District, and OFMA sponsored the food.

Tuesday began early with OFMA Committee meetings, followed by Regional Representatives Meetings and an update from OEM's Director, Annie Vest.

Our 2024-2025 Regional Representatives are:

- Region 1 — Mike Kimbro PE, CFM, ODOT
- Region 2 — Patrick Wilson PE, CFM, City of Broken Arrow
- Region 3 — Dennis Yochum, LeFlore County
- Region 4 — Johnny Barron PE, CFM, City of Altus
- Region 5 — Travis Small PE, CFM, City of Stillwater

Finishing out our morning, we continued with our education sessions with six different presentations highlighting successful Flood Mitigation Tools to understand Flood Risk, Feasibility of Nature Based Solutions, PFAs Occurrence and Sampling Approaches in Urban Oklahoma, and Effects of Hydrology Vegetation, and Aeration on Emerging Contaminant Removal from Secondarily Treated Wastewater Effluent in Treatment Wetland Mesocosms.

After our business lunch in the Grand Theater, we continued with our breakout sessions covering Hydrologic Modeling: HEC-HMS Power Course, DEQ Who, Guiding to Becoming a Phase II MS4, and the

Intersection Between Floodplain Management and Dam Safety. Many attendees also participated in Minute-to-Win-It games before the evening banquet.

Tuesday evening was our annual awards banquet, which I was honored to emcee. The awards given by OFMA are critical to the growth and recognition of our members and others providing leadership and support to issues critical to our success. Here's a list of those recognized at the banquet:

Calendar Contest Winners

1st Place – Tia Snyder, Covington Douglas
2nd Place – Addabelle Kendall, Catalayah Elementary
3rd Place – Eden Davis, Tulsa Adventist Academy
Honorable Mention – Dania Al Qanbar, Will Rogers Elementary

Scholarship Winners

Jace Williams – Elgin High School

Silver Scoop Award

Bobby Howard - Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Special Recognition Award

Carrie Evenson PhD, PE, CFM

Outstanding Recognition Award

Alan Dennis PE, CFM – Garver
Zack Henson CPSWQ, CFM – City of Stillwater
Carolyn Schultz, CFM – USACE (Retired)
Dr. Jason Vogel PE – University of Oklahoma
Dennis Yochum – LeFlore County



2025 TADD Calendar Winner, Tia Snyder

CONTINUED ON PG. 4

CONTINUED FROM PG. 3

Stormwater Innovator Award

Michelle Chao – City of Norman; Michele Loudenback – City of Norman

J. Gavin Brady Floodplain Manager of the Year Award

Seth Barkhimer – City of Shawnee

W. Kenneth Morris Honorary Lifetime Member Award

Brandon Claborn PE, CFM – Meshek & Associates

Leatherbee Robison Education Outreach Award 2024 – Annie Vest CFM, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management

Chairman's Award

2024 – Morgan Lozoya PE, CFM- Meshek & Associates

Charles Don Ellison Award

Yohanes Sugeng PE, CFM – Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Public Official of the Year

Christi Gillespie – City of Broken Arrow, Vice Mayor

J. Gavin Brady Floodplain Manager of the Year Award

Seth Barkhimer – City of Shawnee

W. Kenneth Morris Honorary Lifetime Member Award

Brandon Claborn PE, CFM – Meshek & Associates

R.D Flanagan Gold Project Award

City of Norman – Blue Neighborhood Program; Platinum Project Award, and City of Norman Vineyards Detention Facility Restoration

Leatherbee Robison Education Outreach Award 2024 – Annie Vest CFM, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management

Chairman's Award

2024 – Morgan Lozoya PE, CFM- Meshek & Associates

Charles Don Ellison Award

Yohanes Sugeng PE, CFM – Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Public Official of the Year

Christi Gillespie – City of Broken Arrow, Vice Mayor

Wednesday began with an engaging presentation by William Lehman, USACE followed High Risk Properties in Oklahoma, Sharing what FEMA Knows, and Building on the Foundation of Phase 2 of Oklahoma's First State Flood Plan.

Thanks again to all who participated. We look forward to seeing you in Midwest City in 2025.



Public Official of the Year, Christi Gillespie



1st Quarter 2025 Virtual Brown Bag FEMA Region 6, Risk MAP Webinar Hosted by Dustin Busse and Raymond Mejia



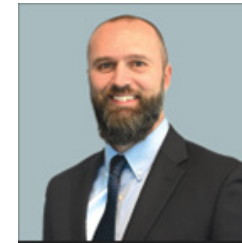
Register for this free webinar with Eventbrite . Feel free to share this information and the registration [link](#) ([FEMA Region 6 Virtual Brown Bag \(VBB\) Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)) with other interested stakeholders. Please note that one Continuing Education Credit hour will be available for Certified Floodplain Managers. 0.1 Credit Hour is also available for Professional Engineers.

February 25, 2025 –Flood after Fire Lessons Learned: A case study with Shawn Penman and Associates



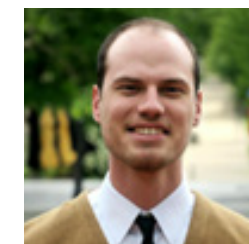
Dr. Shawn Penman is a GIS Specialist/Programmer and RGIS Clearinghouse Manager at the Earth Data Analysis Center at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Penman has 20 years of GIS experience and is a certified GIS Professional (GISP) and a Flood Plain Manager (CFM). Dr. Pen-

man received her PhD in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico in 2002. Her project experience includes GIS applications for floodplain and hazard mapping, Emergency Management, Wildland fire mapping, and interactive web mapping. Dr. Penman has taught GIS in the UNM Geography department as well as for the NMSU NM EDGE Program. She is the Coordinator for the New Mexico Cooperating Technical Partner program and currently serves as Secretary for the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association. In 2023, she received the New Mexico Geographic Information Council (NMGIC) Green Chile Award for Outstanding Service and in 2024 she received the Grant Pinkerton Service Award from the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association (NMFMA). Her superpower is finding information on the internet.



Matthew Dudley is the Director of Surface Water for ESP Associates, Inc. in Raleigh, NC. He has over 22 years of experience in the water resources industry following graduation with a BS in Biological Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech. Mr. Dudley

has spent the majority of his career supporting FEMA flood studies across the nation, particularly within Regions 4 and 6. Most recently, Matt has led project teams performing two-dimensional base-level engineering for watersheds across New Mexico as part of both the NM CTP and Compass PTS contracts. Mr. Dudley is a certified floodplain manager, licensed professional engineer, and proud father of two boys.



Ian Harmon is a Water Resources Specialist at ESP Associates, Inc, supporting the Raleigh, North Carolina office, while currently based in Fort Collins, Colorado. He has 3 years of experience since earning a MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from

the University of Missouri - Columbia. He has worked on and lead technical production for a variety of flood studies in both North Carolina and New Mexico.

2025 SAVE THE DATES

Spring Technical Workshop

April 3, 2025

River Spirit Casino Resort,
Tulsa, OK

Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop

July 17, 2024

Gaillardia Country Club
5300 Gaillardia Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73142

Annual Conference

September 21-24, 2025

Reed Conference Center
5750 Will Rogers Rd.
Midwest City, OK 73110

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March 25, 2025 –Ethan Guyer and The NFHL and the Flood Hazard and Risk Data Viewer



Ethan is a GIS Specialist for the Compass JV. He has 2 years of experience in flood plain mapping and community outreach, with a background in environmental science. He enjoys being able to share his skills in GIS to help others identify risk with the use of spatial data. MA).



FEMA

FEMA Region 6 Makes Community Flood Risk Information More Accessible by Releasing Estimated BFE Viewer in Spanish and English

FEMA Region 6 released its updated Estimated Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Viewer (estBFE) resource. For the first time, this resource shares information in both English and Spanish. This new tool will better serve Spanish-speaking floodplain management officials by offering clearer instructions and easier navigation in a language they understand.

The estBFE Viewer is an interactive online tool that provides Base Level Engineering (BLE) datasets, photographs, maps and reports. It allows users to visualize and download flood risk data specific to their communities. By using the estBFE Viewer, local officials, developers and property owners can determine if they reside in high-risk areas. They can also find effective methods to safeguard their valuable investments.

FEMA Region 6 aims to bridge knowledge gaps in communities by making the BLE data accessible on the estBFE Viewer. With the updated resources, both Spanish and English-speaking officials can assess their flood risk and make informed decisions about how to mitigate their risks.

Across the five Region 6 states, more than 50% of the population is Hispanic or Latino, with more than 35% speaking a language other than English at home. These communities are often more vulnerable to flood hazards due to historic inequities.

FEMA Region 6 is dedicated to improving accessibility to flood risk data, especially in communities lacking data or relying on outdated flood maps. The team will continue to update and translate BLE resources, allowing more communities to take advantage of this free and user-friendly data. Additionally, these resources will guide local officials in incorporating this data into future community planning endeavors.

You can view the English and Spanish versions of the “Using the Region 6 estBFE Viewer” factsheet on the FEMA Region 6 BLE Resource Library.

To learn more, reach out to Region 6’s Communications and Outreach Coordinator Dustin Busse at Dustin.Busse@fema.dhs.gov.



OKLAHOMA Water Resources Board

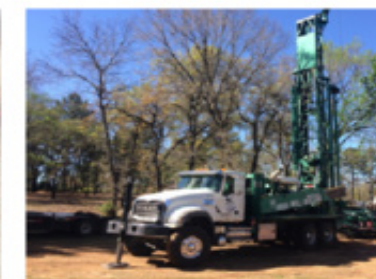
Real Estate Agent Training Opportunity

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board is planning on hosting a course for Real Estate Agents that covers the basics of Floodplain Management and the National Flood Insurance Program, Guide to Risks & Liabilities Involved with Dams and the Well Drilling & Pump Installation Program. If you are interested in attending this 3-hour course, please fill out the survey. Once we have gathered our results, we will contact you with additional details for the course. 3 CECs will be awarded at the end of participation. Please click the link to take our [survey](#) and sign up.

Please contact Cheyenne Reynolds Cheyanne.Reynolds@owrb.ok.gov if you have questions.



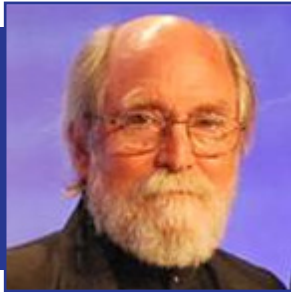
- Dams and Dam Failures
- Dam Safety History and OWRB Missions
- Hazard Creep
- Hazard Reclassification
- Dam Ownership and Real Estate
- Case Studies



- Rules & Regulations
- Domestic vs. Minor Public Water Systems
- Pollution Sources
- Abandoned Wells
- Well Testing (ODEQ)
- Data & Maps (OWRB)



- Residential Property Condition Disclosure Form
- What is a Floodplain
- What is a Flood Zone
- What resources are available to determine if a residential structure is located in a Floodplain



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

The OFMA Disaster Response Team (DRT) and the Drone Support Team (DST) are always looking for volunteers. If anyone is interested, please contact me.

Remember, if your community has not pre-signed for disaster response, please contact Bill Smith, DRT Coordinator, or Tom Leatherbee, DRT Assistant Coordinator, for a community signup sheet. It will require a council or county commissioner board action to prepare and return the required letter of authorization to request the OFMA DRT/DST to come to your community so – be prepared.

It looks like the rainy season has passed, though some communities are getting very intense and short rainfall events that are still causing flooding. This is not always true floodplain flooding, as in most cases it is stormwater flooding outside the designated SFHA. Some communities have adopted stormwater programs and require a stormwater permit for any development in the watershed. This helps to mitigate localize stormwater flooding that can also cause an increase downstream in the floodplains.

So, your community might consider a stormwater program. I have created one for the City of Wagoner. Every development permit goes through me for review to ensure that there is no significant change in stormwater. For some projects, on-site stormwater detention is required, and there are a number of ways to do that in a yard. For another project, if there is not a significant increase, we issue the permit. We are also doing a city-wide evaluation of street and driveway culverts, and when improvements are needed, and funding is available, we will increase the culvert and ditch sizing to try and accommodate the 1% storm. Sometimes, we can, and sometimes, we have to accept a lower-frequency storm design, but it is better than current conditions.

So look at your stormwater flooding outside the SFHA as it may be a bigger issue that you may think.

We will likely have fall storms so prepare for them with ditch and culvert clearing of debris and sediment. Then plan ahead for winter cleaning of all stormwater facilities before next spring.

Be safe out there – Plan Ahead

Bill Smith, DRT Coordinator

918-625-2449 or wbsmith@hisinc.us

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