The BFE*
* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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Letter from the Heart

Ken Morris | Honorary Board Member | OWRB—Retired

Dear All,

On April 19, 1995, I was spared by a hiccup with a dot matrix printer. Sharing with you a moment in OFMA history. During this period trying to change the state floodplain act we worked closely with the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML). OFMA had just had their annual conference. Diane Pedicord was the OML General Council and was a presenter at the conference. OML was on board about requiring annual training.

The thank you letter I was preparing got stuck in the printer. The printer was next to our secretary's desk at the front of the office. My desk and computer were adjacent to the north window. I got up from my desk and headed towards the printer. I was maybe four feet south of the windows when all heck occurred. All of our windows in the building imploded. Glass hit me in the lower back and legs.

Later I learned several lacerations required stitches. I was lucky not being right by the windows. On the first anniversary of the bombing Diane sent me flowers in remembrance of the bombing.

Trudy Rigney was one of our employees who lost their life that day. She had just left my cubicle after leaving a poem she wrote for our newsletter. The poem addressed how parks are suited for the floodplain not homes. Each year OWRB honors Trudy and Robert Chipman by trees planted by the office on Classen Blvd.

After the bombing the ASFPM conference was in Portland, Maine. At the opening plenary session the chairman read Trudy's poem to all conference participants.

I will always remember April 19!

Blessings and prayers to you all. Live today as best you can. You just never know what the future holds.

Sincerely,

Ken

Letter from the Chair

Carrie Evenson PhD, PE, CFM | Chair |
Assistant Public Works Director City of Midwest City

A message from OFMA's new Chair

Carrie Evenson is a registered Professional Engineer in the States of Oklahoma and Colorado and received her Bachelors and Doctoral degrees in Environmental Science from the University of Oklahoma. She began her career with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) in the Industrial Wastewater and Stormwater Enforcement section where she worked for over 11 years. She then joined the City of Norman where she worked as the Stormwater Program Manager for 5 years. She currently serves as the Assistant Public Works Director for the City of Midwest City.

She has been a Certified Floodplain Manager since 2017 and previously served as the Stormwater Quality Committee Chair and Vice Chair for OFMA. She is also a Certified Stormwater Manager, a Certified Professional in Stormwater Quality, a Certified Pesticide Applicator, and holds A Wastewater Operator, A Wastewater Lab Operator, and A Water Operator licenses from ODEQ.

One of the hardest things in life is change. No one likes it, but we all know it happens. Sometimes, it's the best thing that could happen. Others, not so much.

OFMA and the people that make it such a great organization have seen a lot of change since it was founded. In fact, you'll read a story about dramatic and sad changes that Ken Morris faced at the Oklahoma Water Resource Board as a result of the Murrah Building Bombing on April 19, 1995, earlier in the BFE. While I was still in high school when that tragic day occurred, I still remember exactly where I was when I heard the news. That's the type of change that brings profound sadness and I hope no one ever has to face again. Change can also bring profound joy, like when you hold your newborn child in your arms for the first time, or marry the love of your life.

So why am I talking about change? Organizations, like people, experience change: of leadership when new officers are elected; change in membership when people move, change jobs, or retire. While those can be both happy and sad occasions, the organization needs to be able to adjust to these changes in order to grow and continue to provide its people with the best possible professional home.

New CFMs are experiencing this right now. Those of us that passed the CFM exam a few, or more, years ago, remember sitting in a classroom-like setting with paper maps and paper tests. New CFMs can take a proctored exam at home on a laptop. Is that a bad change? It probably depends on your age and perspective. For me, I viewed it as being a bit inevitable. We were always going to have to change with technology.

OFMA's discussion on stormwater management versus floodplain management versus stormwater quality is a bit like this for me. Nationally, the trend has been to include anything related to runoff as stormwater management. Open a trade journal from the Water Environment Federation, and you will see articles on flooding and flood mitigation under the heading of "Stormwater". For me, it's always been one water, and it makes a lot of sense to continue OFMA's growth as an organization to include all of the components that stormwater management encompasses, which includes floodplain management, overland flow (thank you, Ron Flanagan!), and stormwater quality.

I hope we can embrace change and accept the potential challenges and growth that comes with it while still honoring OFMA's history and traditions. Have a great spring, everyone!

FEMA Region 6 Features Resilience and Equity Initiatives at 2023 Mitigation Workshop

In October, Region 6's Mitigation Division hosted its annual Mitigation Workshop. This year's theme was "Bringing Resilience and Equity Together through Mitigation Planning." It brought together local, state, tribal and other representatives to hear about mitigation best practices. The event focused on topics like equity, new resources and policy updates.

Presenters aligned with the new equity requirements in the 2022 mitigation planning policies by highlighting projects that work to increase equity. The Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program talked about their "Low-Capacity Communities Project." FEMA Region 6 discussed their new "Base Level Engineering and Mitigation Planning Training Initiative." These presentations showed how building capacity can help reduce barriers to mitigation planning.

The Southern Plains Tribal Health Board spoke on how mitigation planning is key to identifying and addressing risk. Attendees learned about the board's tribal public health and hazard mitigation work in the region. To connect planning to action, FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) presented on how they are increasing equity in funding through the Justice40 Initiative. Justice40 requires that 40 percent of the overall benefits of investments flow to disadvantaged communities. HMA co-presented with the People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources. They showed how their work in Texas mitigates the disproportionate impacts of natural hazards.

Presenters also discussed FEMA's new metrics for identifying and reducing flood risk. As FEMA rolls out the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, flood mitigation projects must meet stricter standards to receive HMA funding. Region 6's work on Multiple Loss Properties will cast a wider net when looking at flood risk data. FEMA will use this data to check against funding eligibility, so a wider net will lead to more eligible properties.

The workshop hosted over 250 people from all levels of emergency management. Those who attended deemed it a success. Attendees reported that they "learned something from each of the sessions," and "feel that these sessions contained a lot of amazing information and [they] look forward to the next one." Region 6 Mitigation will work to exceed these outcomes during next year's workshop.

Obtaining Required CECs and Oklahoma State Credits

Joe Remondini PE, CFM | Chairman OFMA Professional Development Certification Committee

The new schedule for the Special Topics/Advanced classes have been set. The schedule includes the OWRB 101 classes at the same locations. A variety of Special Topics will be presented to include Hazard Mitigation Programs and funding opportunities. Also other flood mitigation solutions to include “Green Building” and Low Impact Development and others will be presented. Attached is the schedule of classes as developed by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

If you aren’t yet and want to become a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM), the applications and requirements are shown on our website. The CFM Exam is now only available as a digital exam. OFMA, as an accredited Chapter of ASFPM, is responsible for reviewing and approving applications. The digital exam is administered through a private company called “Meazure” therefore your testing fees are split between them and OFMA.

I encourage OFMA members and CFMs to attend these classes to ensure you receive adequate CECs for the year. The required CECs is 16 in a 2 year period with a minimum of 4 per year and maximum counted is 12 annually. Please watch the OWRB and OFMA (www.okflood.org) websites to see scheduled classes and potential changes.

Workshop	Class Description	Organization	Date	Location	Facility/Address	Instructor	Contact Name	Phone
OWRB-Floodplain Management 101	101	OWRB	5/14/2024	OKC	OHP Training Center, 3600 N. MLK Blvd., OKC, OK 73111	OWRB	Diane Garrow	405.425.2423
OFMA Advanced Course	Advanced	OFMA	5/14/2024	OKC	OHP Training Center 3600 N. MLK Blvd., OKC, OK 73111	OFMA STAFF	Diane Garrow	405.425.2423
OWRB-Floodplain Management 101	101	OWRB	6/11/2024	McAlester	Eastern OK University 1802 College Ave., McAlester, OK 74501	OWRB	Anne Brooks	918.302.3607
OFMA Advanced Course	Advanced	OFMA	6/11/2024	McAlester	Eastern OK University 1802 College Ave., McAlester, OK 74501	OFMA STAFF	Anne Brooks	918.302.3607
OWRB-Floodplain Management 202	202	OWRB	7/16/2024	Chickasha	Canadian Valley Tech Ctr, 1401 Michigan Ave., Chickasha, OK 73018	OWRB	Alysia Taylor	405.222.7573
OFMA Advanced Course	Advanced	OFMA	7/16/2024	Chickasha	Canadian Valley Tech Ctr, 1401 Michigan Ave., Chickasha, OK 73018	OFMA STAFF	Alysia Taylor	405.222.7573
OWRB-Floodplain Management 101	101	OWRB	8/6/2024	OKC	OHP Training Center 3600 N. MLK Blvd., OKC, OK 73111	OWRB	Diane Garrow	405.425.2423
OFMA Advanced Course	Advanced	OFMA	8/6/2024	OKC	OHP Training Center 3600 N. MLK Blvd., OKC, OK 73111	OFMA STAFF	Diane Garrow	405.425.2423
OWRB-Floodplain Management 101	101	OWRB	8/27/2024	Broken Arrow	Central Park Main 1500 S Main, Broken Arrow, OK 74012	OWRB	Jamie Ott Kenny Schwab	918.451.8309
OFMA Advanced Course	Advanced	OFMA	8/27/2024	Broken Arrow	Central Park Main 1500 S Main, Broken Arrow, OK 74012	OFMA STAFF	Jamie Ott Kenny Schwab	918.451.8309
OWRB-Floodplain Management 101	101	OWRB	9/10/2024	Langley	GRDA Eco Center, 420 HWY 28 Langley, OK 74350.	OWRB	Donna Kueck	918.981.8470
OWRB-Floodplain Management 202	202	OWRB	10/15/2024	OKC	OHP Training Center 3600 N. MLK Blvd., OKC, OK 73111	OWRB	Paige Hart	405.425.2423
OFMA Advanced Course	Advanced	OFMA	10/15/2024	OKC	OHP Training Center 3600 N. MLK Blvd., OKC, OK 73111	OFMA STAFF	Paige Hart	405.425.2423
OWRB-Floodplain Management 202	202	OWRB	11/12/2024	McAlester	Eastern OK University 1802 College Ave, McAlester, OK 74501	OWRB	Anne Brooks	918.302.3607
OFMA Advanced Course	Advanced	OFMA	11/12/2024	McAlester	Eastern OK University 1802 College Ave, McAlester, OK 74501	OFMA STAFF	Anne Brooks	918.302.3607

Michael Kimbro PE, CFM
Region 1 Representative
Oklahoma Department
of Transportation

Ken Morris
Honorary Board Member
OWRB Retired

OFMA History

On March 14, 2024, the OFMA Board voted to establish a committee to develop the history of OFMA. Michael Kimbro was designated chair, with Ken Morris, Carolyn Schultz, Harold Springer, and Joe Remondini assisting with the development of the OFMA History and recognizing early association founders and members. As time goes by, many current OFMA leaders may not know who provided the mortar and bricks that laid a strong foundation for our Association. Many of the OFMA awards are named after several of these early leaders. For instance, Don Ellison, Ben Frizzell, Kenneth Morris, Ronald Flanagan, and Gavin Brady have awards in their name. Many other early leaders gave their time and energy to help develop an association to educate floodplain managers.

The idea for this historical development originated from the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). Past Executive Director Larry Larson and others developed a Wall of Honor for many of its early founders. Their wall can be viewed on their website (https://www.floods.org/about/asfpm-history/association-milestones/). Each individual honored contains a photo and a short paragraph of their contributions to the Association.

If you have any stories or items that you believe should be included in OFMA’s history, send them to Michael Kimbro at (michael.kimbro@odot.ok.org). For the subject line of the email, please use “OFMA History.” If you have any questions that need to be addressed by phone, please contact Michael Kimbro at 405-522-0612. This information will help to build an OFMA Wall of Honor on our website. Please try and complete this request over the next three months.

2024 SAVE THE DATES

2024 Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop

July 17, 2024

Gaillardia Country Club
5300 Gaillardia Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73142

2024 OFMA Annual Conference

September 15-18, 2024

Choctaw Casino Resort - Durant
4216 S. Hwy 69/75
Durant, OK 74701

ASFPM Releases Strategic Planning Guide for State Floodplain Management Programs

Originally published in AFSPM Newsletter

Whether you're a fan of the Alice in Wonderland quote: "If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there;" or, Yogi Berra is more your thing: "If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up someplace else", a strategic plan can serve as an effective road map to help prioritize efforts, provide structure to day-to-day decisions, and advance your broader mission to ensure you get where you want to go.

For state floodplain management programs, strategic planning can put states in the best position to effectively and efficiently manage flood risk and floodplain resources in line with evolving approaches to floodplain management at the federal, state, and local levels. The strategic planning process is driven by the three questions: Where are we now? Where do we want to go? And, how do we get there?

To guide states through the process, ASFPM has published Strategic Planning Guidance and Methodology for State Floodplain Management Programs. An updated and expanded version of the 2010 edition, this resource is intended for those who make policy decisions and set priorities for state floodplain programs. It can help states align their floodplain management programs with community needs and the 10 guiding principles for effective state floodplain management programs as well as FEMA's Tiered State Framework characteristics.

Although the FEMA-funded guide provides a recommended method for strategic planning that incorporates NFIP coordination with overall effective state floodplain management, it can also be used by state programs that are currently not participating in CAP-SSSE and/or for a portion of the state's overall floodplain management effort (i.e., for floodplain management programs that are undertaken by a single state agency). Lastly, the approaches highlighted in the guide can be adapted to fit other strategic planning methods, if your state agency has its own preferred or prescribed model.

State and territorial floodplain management programs vary widely across the nation. Some programs were established by state laws that pre-date the creation of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and include dozens of staff implementing multiple programs such as state permitting, flood mapping, flood mitigation grant program administration, and NFIP coordination. Others have one or two staff members working under the framework of a Governor's Executive Order for the purpose of acting as the state coordinator of the NFIP.

Regardless of size or structure, if a state participates in the Community Assistance Program – State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) or not, all state floodplain management programs could benefit from going through the exercise of strategic planning, as all state programs will evolve over time – and strategic planning can help position states to be prepared for any necessary transition.

Spanning 125 pages, Strategic Planning Guidance and Methodology for State Floodplain Management Programs is organized into 10 parts, one for each of the guiding principles for effective state floodplain management programs, and it walks users through the five phases of strategic planning – review, analysis, visioning, planning, and implementation – along with prompts for working through each phase. The guide also features templates, worksheets, and checklists as well as a real world example of a state's completed plan, thanks to the generosity of the State of Missouri's Emergency Management Agency for its willingness to share its strategic plan for FY 2021-2024.

ASFPM hopes this practical guide can help states align their floodplain management programs with the 10 guiding principles for effective state floodplain management programs and, if applicable, FEMA's NFIP coordination activities for states, such as the Tiered State Framework characteristics. And in the end, create effective state programs that reduce losses and damage from floods, and protect natural floodplain resources.

Download Guide

Risk Communications Guidebook for Local Officials

FEMA Region 6 launched its newly updated Risk Communications Guidebook for Local Officials. This Guidebook is a "how-to" resource to help local officials plan outreach and community engagement throughout the Risk MAP process. It outlines risk communication strategies with links to helpful materials. Local floodplain management officials often have multiple roles and may not have the benefits of a communications staff. FEMA Region 6 made the Guidebook with this in mind. It has nearly 20 customizable templates for press releases, talking points, meeting presentations, outreach toolkits and more.

The Guidebook debuted over 10 years ago, and now has a fresh, new look and updated content. This content reflects current priorities of FEMA and the Risk MAP process, such as equity and future conditions. FEMA Region 6 also updated the content in plain language and improved accessibility. View or share the Guidebook and its resources. It can be found at https://www.fema.gov/about/organization/region-6.

For more information, please contact FEMA Region 6 Mapping Communications and Outreach Specialist, Dustin Busse at dustin.busse@fema.dhs.gov.

OFMA DRT Corner

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

IT'S NOT TOO LATE, IT'S NOT TOO LATE – shouts Deacon Bill. There is still time, once the snow melts and it warms a little to clean out the ditches and culverts, remove the trees and shrubs, debris, and junk that people throw into our storm drainage and flood channels, culverts, etc.

There is still about 65 days until the normal rainy season begins in Oklahoma – if it will in 2024. But as the Boy Scout Moto says – Be Prepared. So as the days begin to get longer, and sun begins to shine a little more – get your crews out and clean out the conveyance channels and structures. It will be a payoff in the spring when the rains fall, and creeks begin to rise.

Also, Floodplain Administrators (FPA) – one of our primary duties is to educate the citizens of our communities about flood risk. Do you have a Turn Around Don't Drown poster on the wall of the permit center? Do you have brochures that the citizens of your community can read and be better acquainted with flood insurance, types of flood risk, what to do in the event of a flood – before, during and after? Have you prepared and published an article about flooding in your community? Do you know the most critical areas of flooding so that you can work with your Emergency Manager – could be yourself – to evacuate your citizens? There are lots of things we can do as FPAs that doesn't cost a lot of money – takes a little of your time – but you will sleep better at night knowing that you did something to help those who are not as knowledgeable as we are on floodplain and localized street flooding outside the SFHA.

Be Prepared, Be Aware, and Do your Part!

OFMA OKLAHOMA
FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Funding Acknowledgment

Funds to produce The BFE come in part from the National Flood Insurance Program and State Support Services Element of the Community Assistance Program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association publishes the BFE, Inc. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to:

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2024 Stormwater Quality Workshop Update

Brandon Claborn PE, CFM - OFMA Conference Co-Chair

I was privileged to attend this year's Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop on July 17th at the Gaillardia Country Club in Oklahoma. It was a beautiful facility, and the food was the best I've ever had at an OFMA Conference. Additionally, the program was full of great speakers, and I'm pretty sure this was our largest attendance ever. The event started with an opening plenary and welcome from Carrie Evenson PhD, PE, CFM, OFMA Chair, setting the tone for an exciting day. Then, Mark Thibodeau from ODEQ updated us on what is new at the department and OKR04 Updates. Seth Brown, PE, PhD, from the National Municipal Stormwater Alliance (NMSA), shared about the State of Stormwater from a national perspective which was a breath of fresh air for many of us who work only in Oklahoma or the region.

The plenary session continued with Bryan Noblitt, USACE, discussing the 404 Permitting and Regulatory Program, and Zach Henson CPSWQ, CFM, City of Stillwater, discussing his work incorporating stormwater quality with floodplain management. These were both engaging presentations with great question and answer sessions.

Attendees enjoyed a buffet lunch with ample time for networking which is an important part of this workshop.

CONTINUED ON PG. 3

Letter from the Chair

Carrie Evenson PhD, PE, CFM | Chair |
Assistant Public Works Director City of Midwest City

A message from OFMA's new Chair

Carrie Evenson is a registered Professional Engineer in the States of Oklahoma and Colorado and received her Bachelors and Doctoral degrees in Environmental Science from the University of Oklahoma. She began her career with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) in the Industrial Wastewater and Stormwater Enforcement section where she worked for over 11 years. She then joined the City of Norman where she worked as the Stormwater Program Manager for 5 years. She currently serves as the Assistant Public Works Director for the City of Midwest City.

She has been a Certified Floodplain Manager since 2017 and previously served as the Stormwater Quality Committee Chair and Vice Chair for OFMA. She is also a Certified Stormwater Manager, a Certified Professional in Stormwater Quality, a Certified Pesticide Applicator, and holds a Wastewater Operator, a Wastewater Lab Operator, and a Water Operator licenses from ODEQ.

It's that time of year again: conference season! That time of year when it's still hot as blazes outside, and you get to start thinking about which conferences and workshops you will attend in the fall. We hope the OFMA Annual Conference is always at the top of your list of must-attend events.

This year, the Annual Conference will be held in Durant at the Choctaw Casino Resort from September 15th through 18th. This year's theme is Stormwater and Floodplain Management. We rely on you to help us put on excellent, interesting conferences by telling us about the unique or challenging projects or programs you have worked on throughout the year. The Call for Abstracts is open until August 9th, so please consider submitting an abstract.

If you're an introvert like me and prefer not to present but can't wait to attend, registration and hotel reservation information is now available online. New for this year, if you register after September 11th, registration costs increase, so please register early.

The agenda is coming together nicely, and it looks like another great event.

We hope to see you there!

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

The afternoon started with breakout sessions on three track topics: LID/Community Involvement, moderated by Aleksi Etter PE, Meshek & Associates, with presentations by Michelle Chao, City of Norman, about her project called Norman Blue Neighborhoods Initiative; Cheryl Cheadle, Blue Thumb Volunteer Coordinator, shared about Development, Sediment, and Stream protection; and Dr. Jason Vogel PhD, PE, OU, and Jacob Burton PE, CFM, Olsson, covered using LID for flood control in Oklahoma.

The General Topics session, moderated by Morgan Lozoya PE, CFM, Meshek & Associates, covered a variety of topics. Vernon Seaman, INCOG, shared information about OKR04 TMDL Requirements: QAPP and Monitoring Plans, Trey Shanks CFM, IAM, Freese & Nichols, presented on starting a Stormwater Asset Management Journey in a Small MS4; and Jason Kleps, GISP, CFM, Meshek & Associates, presented with Joshua Martin, Rogers County, about outfall inspection dashboards and data-gathering methods.

The Research Topics session, moderated by Abby Winrich, Oklahoma State University, saw presentations from Abby Winrich, Sylvestor Thompson, Nisha Bhatta, Megan Ryan, and Maliha Tabassum, all M.S. students at Oklahoma State University, about their various research projects.

Closing out the workshop was Allison Whitsitt, AEM, Meshek & Associates; she shared about funding opportunities available, and the different ways communities can think outside of the box when it comes to grant funding. Kenneth Schwab PE, SE, CFM, City of Broken Arrow, and Carrie Evenson PhD, PE, CFM, City of Midwest City, led a discussion about incorporating Stormwater into the OFMA brand to combine floodplain management and stormwater quality. This topic will be discussed further at the Annual Conference in September.

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

If you are interested in downloading the presentations please visit our website https://okflood.org/2024-stormwater-quality-technical-workshop-presentations/

2024 South Central Climate Resilience Forum
A Former Climate Skeptic Reports

Johnny Barron PE, CFM | OFMA Region 2 Representative | City of Altus

The first ever South Central Climate Resilience Forum was held April 2-4 in Dallas, TX. Key agencies involved in planning the forum included, NOAA Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP), South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center, USDA Southern Plains Climate Hub and the Nature Conservancy.

Many universities were also involved in planning and presenting, including OU, LSU, UT, and Texas A&M. Several Oklahoma cities participated as well, including Oklahoma City, Yukon, and Altus.

You may be aware that I used to be rather skeptical of global warming. While there are still elements of climate change response that I do not buy into (i.e. carbon footprints, seriously?), I have come to accept the data that shows real patterns of change. The glaciers really are melting.

As floodplain managers, we need to accept, if not embrace, the concept of climate change. It is literally our job to plan for and mitigate the impacts of future extreme weather events. So, I went to the forum. It was not the woke-fest I expected it to be. There were many bright scholars who have been working hard to give us a better picture of what is happening and what the future brings.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Katherine Hayhoe. There were a couple of concepts in her speech that I appreciated. What follows are my words, not hers, as I paraphrase what I remember of her talk. We should have hope for the future. There is every reason to hope that humanity can continue to thrive during climate change. Alarmism and overreacting hurt the cause. People are generally more motivated by hope than by fear. Greta Thunberg said, “The one thing we need more than hope is to act. Once we start to act, hope is everywhere.” [did I just quote Greta Thunberg? What is happening to me?] The point being that when we take reasonable actions to help the planet, we more easily find hope which motivates further action. By “actions,” I am not advocating for protests or stupid things (don’t be a Greta); I mean adjusting our planning strategies to increase community resilience. The climate has never been stable. Planning for future extreme weather based on past extreme weather events is like driving forward while looking only in the rear-view mirror (her analogy, not mine). It seems to me that all we have ever done in our industry is predict future flooding based on past flooding. Among the emerging tools of climate research are climate prediction models. Maybe someday, we will have a new flood model that includes prediction data as a means to calibrate or enhance traditional flood models.

According to Dr. Hayhoe, most Americans are concerned about the climate. Even 42% of Texas republications admit they are worried about it.

My take-away, climate change is not catastrophic but it is real. While the trends could reverse at any time, it makes sense to prepare for the worst. That’s my job.

Give the Federal Government a Piece of Your Mind!

Sounds appealing, right?

FEMA and partners from the State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator offices are seeking just that kind of input.

Collectively, we all understand that managing floodplains can be a challenging task with many responsibilities and actions to coordinate. For this reason, FEMA’s Floodplain Management Division is seeking to redesign the agency’s trainings to better serve the needs of our nation’s 22,668 NFIP Floodplain Administrators and the Participating Communities they represent. To have a meaningful impact, FEMA needs your input.

Floodplain Administrators in NFIP Participating Communities have received a survey to comment on your training needs as well as the obstacles and barriers you face in trying to meet and manage floodplain activities.

The results of this survey will be used to design a national Floodplain Administrator training strategy created by FEMA. In addition, the data will be consolidated by state in a public report and will be shared with each State NFIP Coordinator.

The survey is open from June 20-Aug. 30, 2024. Only one survey can be completed from each NFIP participating community. A community’s Floodplain Administrator should be the person filling out the survey.

The survey can be accessed in several ways:

- Online at this link: www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/training
- Scan the QR code below
- By contacting FEMA by email at fema-fpmtraining@fema.dhs.gov and requesting a survey be mailed to your office.

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

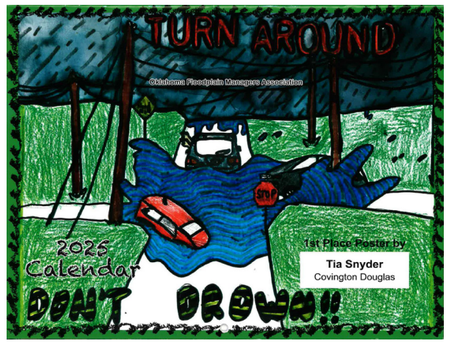
Bill Smith, DRT Coordinator

918-625-2449 or wbsmith@hisinc.us

The 2025 Turn Around Don't Drown Calendars Are Available for Pickup

Meshek & Associates
1437 S Boulder Ave, No 1550
Tulsa, OK 74119

Call or come by to get yours! 918.392.5620



Funding Acknowledgment

Funds to produce The BFE come in part from the National Flood Insurance Program and State Support Services Element of the Community Assistance Program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association publishes the BFE, Inc. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to:

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