

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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Words from the Chair

Brandon Claborn, PE, CFM



First and foremost, I hope everyone of you in the floodplain management community are safe along with your family. I'm sad that we had to cancel the Spring Technical Workshop which meant I didn't get to spend time with this wonderful community. Some of you may be concerned about obtaining enough CEC credits. OFMA recently sent out an email identifying additional online training options to help you meet the minimum requirements. The board will continue to monitor the situation and do everything they can to help out.

I don't know whether you consider yourself an optimist or a pessimist or if you refuse to choose and identify as a "realist" (sarcasm on that last one). I'm guessing your current situation due to the Covid-19 virus is giving you a chance to test yourself and see.

I've personally observed the full spectrum and I am willing to admit that after the initial shock and panic of the potential shut down of our business, I quickly moved back to the side of optimism. If you allow me to set aside the tragedy of the

lives lost, there are some reasons to be optimistic.

First on my list of reasons for optimism is that a crisis of this magnitude often comes with major technological advancements largely due to innovation that otherwise would have taken much longer. For example, the technology required to conduct virtual meetings has been around for quite a while but for several reasons it hasn't been widely adopted. How fast has that changed? What happened to all the excuses that were used to avoid widespread use? It just isn't the same, we can't trust the technology, we don't have the equipment, etc. Most of those reasons disappeared in a hurry!

What else has changed? I've heard stories of documents in the past that required wet signatures including being Notarized which takes a lot of time and money to prepare when it has to be done multiple times. We're now finding out that there are methods for electronic signature that have been around for a while but there was no catalyst to force change. *Continued on Page 2...*

Words from the Chair

...Continued from Page 2

I've also heard that staff at the City of Del City has conducted inspections remotely via live video. I don't know if this was using FaceTime or Zoom on a mobile device but who would have dreamed of this a year ago? Are there situations where this could be the norm rather than the exception? Would that save resources for the City?

What does this have to do with Floodplain Management? Everything. In our haste to "return to normal," maybe we should stop and ask if it is worth it. If I asked our community how many floodplain management rules, regulations, policies, procedures, etc. that frustrate them, I'd surely get a long list. How many of those are simply out of date with better solutions already available? What would it take to change them? It won't happen if we don't try.

Maybe this is a good time to seek out change in the name of optimism. Maybe we can make a significant improvement in the reduction of floodplain risk.

OFMA CEC Opportunities

OFMA Board

First we want you all to stay healthy and not risk getting infected or spreading the virus to others.

Due to the current crisis training classes and workshops have been cancelled restricting your ability to get required CECs to renew your Certified Floodplain Management status.

We still have scheduled the Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop on July 15 at the Moore Norman Technology Center Franklin Road Campus in Norman as well as the Annual Conference in Norman September 21-23.

We encourage you to register for these training opportunities. Subject to future conditions we plan to reschedule more training classes later in the year.



Save the Date for the Third Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop!

OFMA, in conjunction with the Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance (COSWA) and the Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA), is hosting the Third Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop on Wednesday, July 15th, 2019, at the Moore Norman Technology Center, Franklin Road Campus, in Norman.

The workshop will include presentations on municipal stormwater management, green infrastructure, inspections and enforcement, and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and runs from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Representatives from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, the Oklahoma Conservation

Commission, the Indian Nations Council of Government, and the Oklahoma Water Survey will be in attendance.

If you are looking for stormwater training for your inspectors or other city officials, this is a perfect opportunity to get them to a local workshop focused on stormwater quality.

Registration is \$50 per person and will be open soon. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

If you have an interesting topic to present or want to recommend a speaker, please contact Carrie Evenson at carrie.evenson@normanok.gov. Check out www.okflood.org for more information.

Online Courses Available for FPA and CFM Renewal

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board has cancelled all floodplain management meetings and training events through April 30, 2020. If you are a community Floodplain Administrator or a CFM and looking for training to renew your certification there are some options available. FEMA offers online independent study courses on topics such as Letters of Map Revision, Substantial Damage Estimation and Flood Insurance Studies. You can view the courses offered at <https://training.fema.gov>.

Also, the OWRB will grant one hour of training credit to FPA's (sorry, not for CFMs) for signing up on our list serve to receive news and updates. Be sure to select Floodplain Program Updates as one of the topics you want to receive information on. We have also extended

the FPA accreditation period to September 30, 2020 to allow additional time to complete training opportunities. As soon as meeting restrictions are lifted our training calendar will be revised and more floodplain workshops scheduled. To sign up for the OWRB list serve and for more information on training opportunities visit the OWRB website at www.owrb.ok.gov.

The OWRB offers the following resources to educate and train floodplain management professionals on effective floodplain management practices and requirements. Floodplain administrators can earn credit toward Oklahoma's accreditation requirements by attending an approved conference or workshop, or completing FEMA's online courses.

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Groundwater Studies
Surface Water Studies
Dam Safety
Floodplain Management
Drought Monitoring
Interactive Maps & Data

Sign up for the latest news and updates from the OWRB.
Email Address Submit

Due to public health recommendations and Governor Kevin Stitt's Emergency Declaration for the State of Oklahoma, the OWRB office is currently closed to the general public. All training events have been cancelled through April 30th. If you have business to conduct with the OWRB and do not know your contact's direct line, please call 405-530-8800 or contact us through our [web form](#). We apologize for any inconvenience.

Google Custom Search

Water For 2060
Oklahoma Drought Portal
Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan
Oklahoma Water News
Lakes of Oklahoma
Interactive Maps & Data

News
Atoka Municipal Authority Receives \$4,010,000 in Water System Funding from OWRB
Weleetka Public Works Authority Receives \$95,330 in Water System Funding from OWRB
Wilburton Water Board Receives \$31,875 Grant for

Calendar
Apr 8-9 ~~OCLWA Annual Conference~~
Cancelled
Apr 21 Board Meeting
Tweets by @OKWaterBoard

CEC Opportunities During Social Distancing

ASFPM and the Certification Board of Regents

With more of our colleagues quarantined in their homes and unable to travel due to COVID-19, we know this puts our nation's CFMs in a predicament, especially those with July and January renewal dates. Many of our Chapters are also having to make that difficult decision to cancel chapter conferences.

At ASFPM, we have solutions! We hope you will use the following guide to help you get your required CECs, as well as increase your professional development during your quarantine. Access your current CECs on record with us on your [CFM portal](#).

Before we get into the self-study courses available, we are happy to announce a special ASFPM response to the crisis—the ASFPM Webinar Sprint! Our new ASFPM live webinar series will guarantee you at least 12 CECs between now and the first renewal date of July 1. Some of these will be free, through our various partnerships, and some will be discounted depending on your membership with us. Find the schedule and registration links on the [training page](#) on our website.

Self-study is also a great alternative for those CFMs who only need a few CECs, or are seeking self-study online training. Below are several sources of pre-approved self-study along with descriptions, general costs and links.

FEMA-EMI, ISP Courses

No cost

Through our partnership with the Emergency Management Institute—FEMA's training center—we have approved 102 self-study courses for CEC credit at no cost. However, you must complete the final exam to receive your certificate for the course that you will turn in for CEC credit. If you go directly to the EMI site, please note that 0.1 CEU equals 1 CEC.

Access the [pre-approved](#) list on our website.

Access these courses on the [EMI website](#).

COMET – Independent Study Courses

No cost

COMET is made possible through sponsorship from NOAA, the World Meteorological Organization, U.S. Department of the Interior, and USACE just to name a few. We have approved 39 courses for CEC credit. You must complete the course and the quiz(es) in order to receive your certificate that is turned in for CEC credit. The links to each course can be on the [ASFPM website](#).

ASFPM Online University ([RedVector.com](#))

Costs vary

Red Vector hosts courses created by our colleagues and other ASFPM partners. It is a paid class platform. However, registering through the ASFPM Online University grants you a 15% discount off of the main website, as well as supports a small royalty back to the course creator and to ASFPM to continue to support training objectives. The ASFPM Certification Board of Regents has recently added over 150 more courses to the curated list, which can be found by looking up “ASFPM” in the search tab and scrolling under #3. Feel free to contact training@floods.org for assistance during normal business hours. Access courses via the ASFPM Online University at: <https://floods.redvector.com/>



ASFPM Webinars and partner webinars

Cost varies from no cost to various depending on membership.

ASFPM hosts an average of two to four webinars per month. ASFPM members, Chapter members (sent to Chapter officers for distribution) and partners automatically get invitations to the ASFPM Webinar series as well as the ASFPM/APA PIE webinar series. ASFPM special edition, lunch-n-learn, and CTP information exchange invitations generally go to ASFPM members that have selected to be on that committee's email list during their ASFPM membership renewal or by self-selecting on their member portal (if you would like access to these webinars, become a member of ASFPM by [clicking here](#)).

We currently have five different webinar series:

ASFPM Webinar series – For fee webinars on cutting edge issues by subject matter experts.

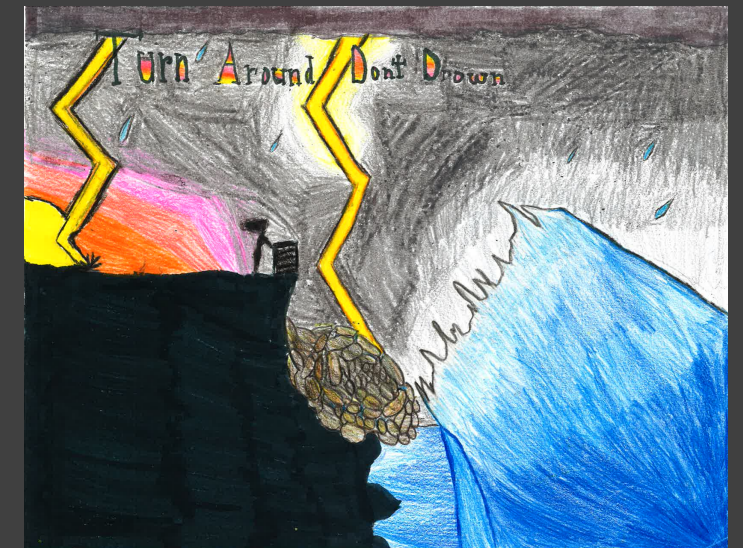
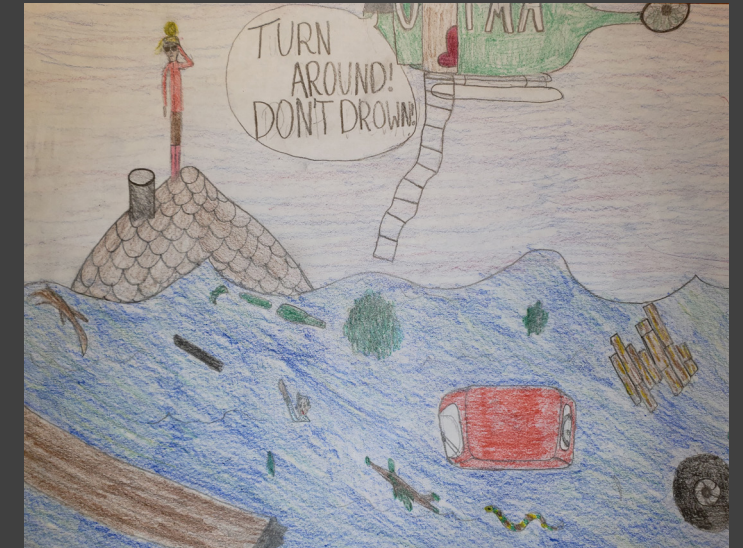
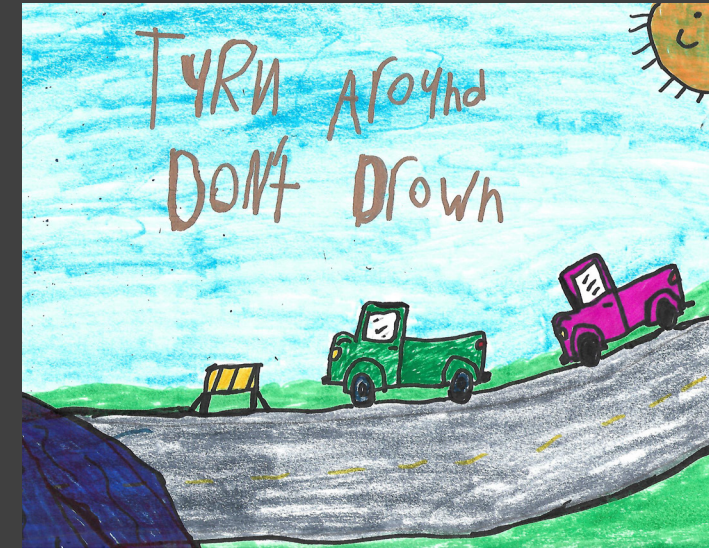
1. **ASFPM Special Edition webinars** – No cost, special topic webinars for members put on by any of the 14 ASFPM policy committees.
2. **ASFPM Lunch-n-Learn webinars** – No cost, special topic webinars for members put on by any of the 14 ASFPM policy committees.
3. **ASFPM Cooperating Technical Partners “CTP Information Exchange”** – No cost, special topic webinars put on by ASFPM's Flood Science Center in partnership with the Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee.
4. **ASFPM/APA Planning Information Exchange “PIE webinars”**– No cost, special topic webinars alternating between APA-led (American Planning Association) and ASFPM-led.

We hope this list helps you in your search for safe online CECs. We are all in this together, and we thank you for being part of our ASFPM community.

Turn Around Don't Drown Flood Safety Poster Contest

Polls are now open!

Despite the cancellation of school and OFMA's Spring Technical Workshop, grade school artists from across the state submitted their artwork for the Turn Around Don't Drown Flood Safety Poster Contest. Cast your vote for your favorites now until Friday, April 24.



Proposed Mitigation Grant Program Policy for Public Comment

FEMA ADVISORY

On Friday, April 10, FEMA published a proposed policy for the new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program in the Federal Register for public comment. Stakeholders may view the proposed policy and provide new comments until May 11, 2020, at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). In the “search function,” type identification number FEMA-2019-0018 at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) or view the proposed policy at this link. Although FEMA recognizes there may be operational constraints for some to publicly comment during these challenging times, FEMA is proceeding with publishing the proposed BRIC policy for notice and public comment in order to keep program implementation moving forward.

In developing the proposed policy, FEMA spent months in 2019 reaching out to stakeholders for input and has given serious consideration to the comments it received during the comprehensive engagement process. The proposed policy is broad and intended to establish the framework and requirements for BRIC.

Each year FEMA will post a Notice of Funding

Opportunity (NOFO) on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) providing detailed program information and other grant application and administration requirements. Following the review and adjudication of comments received on the proposed policy, FEMA anticipates finalizing the proposed policy and releasing a NOFO by the fall of 2020. This timing is subject to change. To learn more visit www.fema.gov/bric.

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Division:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
- Tribal Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov
- Private Sector Engagement at (202) 646-3444 or at nbeoc@max.gov



As envisioned, BRIC will support states, local communities, tribes and territories, as they undertake hazard mitigation projects reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards.
(Photo: View of the Houston, TX, Skyline)

Addendum to the CRS Coordinator's Manual Expected in 2021

NFIP/CRS UPDATE

The CRS will not issue a full new edition of the Coordinator's Manual in January 2021, as described in the last few issues of this newsletter. Instead, the CRS will be issuing a brief “addendum” that communities will use in conjunction with the current 2017 Coordinator's Manual. The Addendum will serve as a “bridge” between the existing guidance materials and the more comprehensive update that is anticipated to be needed when FEMA continues to implement the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Transformation.

This approach will allow CRS communities to continue using the familiar materials for a longer period. It also should minimize the possibility for a shortened turnaround time and/or the need for interim guidance—either of which could prove disruptive for communities.

Beginning in January 2021, CRS communities will be implementing their programs in accord with both the 2021 Addendum and the 2017 Coordinator's Manual. This will continue until the next full update of the Coordinator's Manual, which is not expected until 2023.

The Addendum will be a short



FEMA

document, limited in scope to clarifications, simplifications, new credit opportunities, and FEMA initiatives. Highlights of CRS program changes that will be part of the Addendum, including CRS credit opportunities for floodplain species assessments and management plans for potential substantial damage, will be discussed in the next issue of the newsletter. An additional change expected in the Addendum is a new prerequisite for achieving Class 8—enforcement of a freeboard standard for residential buildings. At verification cycle visits after January 2021, a CRS community will be required to enforce at least 1 foot of freeboard for all new and substantially improved residential buildings in its numbered A and V Zones in order to become (or remain) a CRS Class 8 or better community. Communities that do not implement freeboard will be limited to a CRS Class 9 rating.

More details on when communities will need to be implementing freeboard for residential buildings will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

The CRS Task Force has been examining the value and feasibility of a freeboard prerequisite at the request of Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration (FIMA) [see article on pages 3-4 of the [June/July 2018 issue](#)]. This past year, the CRS Task Force's Freeboard Prerequisite Committee recommended including the prerequisite in the CRS and FIMA has concurred.

All communities that implement a freeboard requirement will receive CRS credit under Activity 430 (Higher Regulatory Standards), and this is also an opportunity for communities to consider whether a 2- or even 3-foot freeboard standard would be appropriate for them.

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