# The B.F.E.\*

#### \* Base Flood Elevation

#### OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER February 2004

Number 2

#### Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association Spring Conference - Keys to a Flood Safe Community

**Something new for 2004 Spring Conference!** In an attempt to make the conference more accessible to all OFMA members in the State of Oklahoma your Board has planned two sessions. Make your plans today to attend the conference session in your area. The session in Lawton will be Friday, March 5, 2004, at the Great Plains Technology Center, 4500 West Lee Blvd., Lawton, Ok. The session in Tulsa will be Friday, March 12, 2004, at the Tulsa Technology Center, Riverside Campus Facility, 801 E. 91<sup>st</sup> Street, Tulsa Ok.

This year we are encouraging Mayors and City Managers as well as local Floodplain Administrators to attend the Spring Conference. OFMA wants your Mayor and City Manager to hear how valuable you are and what a key player you are in the administration of local government. This year the fee will be the same for everyone. A registration form is included on page 2.

The fee includes materials, lunch, and refreshments during breaks. To insure we provide adequate food it is important that you complete and return your registration form by March 1, 2004. Those in attendance will receive Continuing Education Credits to satisfy your certification requirements.





Volume 6

"Keys to a Flood Safe Community" will include the implementation of local flood ordinances including permitting, elevation certificates, FIRM designations, record keeping and the importance of local management. "Diverting Disasters" will include development planning, master drainage plans, storm water detention, compensatory storage, and no adverse impact. "Building your Team" will center on the relationship between public officials and floodplain managers. "Tools of the Trade" will share information on the efficiency of floodplain management with regard to Master Drainage Plans, Comprehensive Plans, and Hazard Mitigation Plans. "Protecting the Existing" is about flood proofing structures. "Computer Says" explores the use of GIS, electronic maps and records systems.

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#### Talk to your Legislators!

The OFMA 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Oklahoma Legislative Reception is Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 10am-2pm in Room 412B of the State Capitol, 2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City. All members are encouraged to come visit their state senators and legislators to share experiences as floodplain managers trying to reduce the loss of life and property to flooding in Oklahoma. This is also a good time to explain why we need mandatory training of floodplain administrators as outlined in House Bill 2284, authored by Rep. Thad Balkman (Read more on this bill on page 4). You know how complex floodplain management is and how important it is that we get training in federal and state laws, local ordinances, permitting procedures, base flood elevations, and all the other subject areas floodplain administrators must know about in order to do their jobs. If you cannot join us, please call or write to your legislators and ask them to vote for House Bill 2284. Oklahoma House of Representatives, 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 Phone: 1-800-522-8502 or 1-800-522-8506. The Senate has the same address. Its phone number is 405-524-0126.

To find out who your legislators are, go to http://www5.lsb.state.ok.us/ legislators/lsbaddress.asp . Fill in your address and you'll get an immediate reply with your federal and state legislators names, office phone numbers and email addresses.

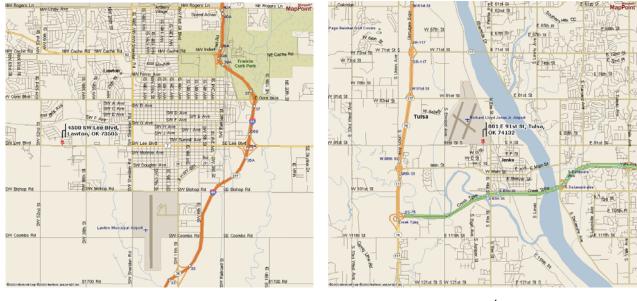
## **REGISTRATION – 2004 SPRING CONFERENCE**

Name	Compan	y/Organiz	ation	
Address	_			
Work Phone	Email Ac	ldress		
I will attend the Conference in:	(Ck One)	Lawton	Tulsa_	
N	C			
Name	-	. 0		
Address	_City		_State	Zip
Work Phone	Email Ac	ldress		
I will attend the Conference in:	(Ck One)	Lawton	Tulsa_	
Name	Compan	y/Organiz	ation	
Address	-	• •		
Work Phone	-			_
I will attend the Conference in:				
	````			

\_\_\_\_\_Number of Persons Attending Spring Conference in Lawton, Oklahoma on Friday, March 5, 2004

\_\_\_\_\_Number of Persons Attending Spring Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Friday, March 12, 2004

Total Number Attending times \$35.00 each (Includes Lunch) Amount Enclosed\_\_\_\_\_Or you may provide a Purchase Order Number\_\_\_\_\_ Mail Registration to OFMA, P O Box 8101, Tulsa, Ok 74101-8101 Contact Carolyn Schultz CFM for additional information (918) 669-4919



Lawton - 4500 SW Lee Blvd

Tulsa - 801 E 91<sup>st</sup> Street

#### Flood Safety in Oklahoma

Flash floods are the number one cause for weather-related deaths in the United States. An average of 100 people a 0 0 vear lose their lives in 0 floods nationwide, with flood damage averaging more than \$2 billion.

In Oklahoma over \$97 million in flood insurance payments were made from 1978 to 2002. More than 15 Oklahomans have been killed by floods since 1995

The following tips will help keep you safe during a flood.

#### Flood Safety Tips:

- Stav informed. Turn on a battery-operated radio or television to get the latest emergency information. Continue listening to the radio for news about what to do, where to go, and places to avoid
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Evacuation is much safer before floodwaters become too deep for ordinary vehicles to drive through. Follow recommended evacuation routes
- Avoid walking through floodwater. Water only six inches deep can sweep you off your feet if it is moving swiftly.
- Do not drive into a flooded street. Cars can be swept away by two feet of moving water or there may be unseen damage to the road. If you come to a flooded area turn around and go another way. Most floodrelated deaths are caused by people driving through water
- Watch out for fire hazards. Be aware of broken or leaking gas lines, flooded electrical circuits, electrical appliances, and flammable materials coming from upstream

#### Plan Ahead for Floods

Find out if you live in a flood-prone area. Ask whether your property is above or below the flood stage water level and learn about the history of flooding for your region.

Plan and practice an evacuation route. Individuals living in flash flood areas should have several alternate routes. Have disaster supplies on hand for easy access

Learn about the National Flood Insurance Program. Ask your insurance agent about flood insurance. Homeowners' policies do not cover flood damage.

#### After the Flood Protect yourself and your family from stress, fatigue, and health hazards that follow a flood:

- Drv Out Your Home. Floodwaters damage materials, leave mud, silt and unknown contaminants, and promote the growth of mildew.
- Restore the Utilities. The rest of your work will be much easier if you have heat electricity, clean water, and sewage disposal
- Clean Up. The walls, floors, closets, shelves, contents and any other flooded parts of your home should be thoroughly washed and disinfected.
- Rebuild and Flood proof. Take your time to rebuild correctly and make improvement that will protect your building from damage by the next flood
- Prepare for the Next Flood. Protect yourself from the next flood with flood insurance, a flood response plan, and community flood protection programs

For more information visit the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association Website at www.okflood.org



#### **Upcoming Public Information Opportunities**

#### March - Flood Insurance Awareness Month April - Severe Weather Awareness Month May - Flood Awareness Month

Those in the Floodplain Management and Disaster prevention field know the importance of communicating a message of disaster preparedness to Oklahoma families. We know we will have severe weather in Oklahoma, the only questions are when, where, and how dangerous the weather will be. These conditions make awareness campaigns all the more important for keeping Oklahomans prepared and safe.

#### Introducing Family McReady-OK!

In an effort to continue to raise awareness of severe spring weather, Floodplain Management is teaming up with McDonalds, National Weather Service, Red Cross, the State, Emergency Managers, and others in a new program called Family McReady-OK. The program combines severe weather preparedness strategies as well as floodplain and weather radio tips, and delivers them in a family environment where visitors are likely to take notice and get involved. Each McDonalds serves about 1,000 customers per day, and provides an unprecedented opportunity to reach a vast audience with our message.

The program features preparedness-themed tray liners and bag inserts as well as display racks that will be set up in each participating McDonalds and will hold neighborhood floodplain maps, tornado path maps, and brochures that have been prepared by Ron Flanagan. Of course, the McReady program cannot be successful without the help of local Floodplain Managers. We are counting on local Floodplain Managers or their volunteers to restock the brochures as needed. You also have the opportunity to add any additional brochures that you have available.

We understand this may seem like a challenge, especially in jurisdictions with more than one McDonalds. However, based on the success the program had in the Tulsa area last June, the inconvenience will be minimal in comparison to the number of people the program will reach. Thanks for your support!

#### **CEC** Questions and Answers

One problem mentioned frequently in a recent ASFPM survey is that CFMs do not always know how to obtain verification of training for CECs or how and when to submit them. Workshops and conferences can get preapproved for CECs, which may be advertised with the announcement, or you can check the website under certification/pre-approved CECs. If a course has not been pre-approved, it does not mean you can't receive credit for it. A CFM can submit for approval any training that relates directly or indirectly to floodplain management. This is the procedure:

- Complete a CEC Verification Form; attach the course agenda along with verification of attendance. The attendance verification does NOT have to be a certificate. You can send a registration confirmation, copy of attendance list with your name highlighted or take a CEC form with you to be signed by the instructor.
- Submit all to OFMA (Carolyn Schultz) by mail or fax. The PDCC (Professional Development Certification . Committee) processes all requests.
- CECs can be submitted at anytime or you can keep your own file to copy and submit at renewal time. A lot of CFMs trying to get CECs together at the last minute have trouble remembering all courses they attended, especially if they did not keep copies of everything. It may be easier for you if you submit the paperwork to Carolyn after each course, and we'll do the tracking for you.
- The PDCC will **not** notify you of receipt of CEC forms for a pre-approved course. If the CEC submittal needs to be reviewed and have CECs assigned, the PDCC will notify you of the number of CECs awarded.



# Web Sites

OFMA	www.okflood.org	
ASFPM	www.floods.org	
OWRB	www.owrb.state.ok.us	
FEMA	www.fema.gov	
OEMA	www.angelfire.com/ok2/oema	
OEM	www.odcem.state.ok.us	
Corps of	of Engineers (USACE)	•
	www.swt.usace.army.mil	
U.S. Ge	ological Survey (USGS)	
	ok.water.usgs.gov	
Advanc	ed Study Institute	
	web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi	
CLOMR	/LOMR Forms:	
	www.fema.gov/forms/forms.htm	
EPA NP	DES Phase II site:	•
	www.epa.gov/npdes/	
SMRC S	Stormwater Mgr Resource Cen	
	ter: www.stormwatercenter.net	
Link to:	: 44 CFR Ch. I (10-1-02 Edition)	
	http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/ fr/waisidx_02/44cfrv1_02.html	•
Mahma	story Hank Elling D.E. CEM	

# Webmaster: Hank Elling, P.E., CFM (580)248-7762 hcelling@owrb.state.ok.us

# Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- <u>Twenty-Seventh Annual Conference of the Association</u> of State Floodplain Managers: May 16-21, Beau Rivage Hotel, Gulf Coast, LA Contact: ASFPM Executive Office, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713-3120; (608) 274-0123; fax: (608)274-0696; e-mail: asfpm@floods.org; website: www.floods.org
- Floodplain Managers 101 Training; Tentative dates: Region 1: May 25 - Midwest City Community Building. Region 2: May 13-Bartlesville - Technology Center Region 3: May 4 - McAlester - Eastern Oklahoma State College

Region 4: May 6 - Lawton Public Library Region 5: May 11-Woodward - High Plains Technology Center

For more information, call 405-530-8800.

- **NFIP 2004 National Flood Conference**; May 2-5, Westin Hotel, Seattle Washington. Contact Catherine King at 301-918-1439.
- OML Annual Conference; to be announced
- OFMA Annual Fall Conference; to be announced
- CRS Training Class; to be announced
- OWRB Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP; TBA, Contact: OWRB, 3800 North Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73118; for more information, call 405-530-8800; website: www.owrb.state.ok.us.

# House Bill 2284 to be Introduced to the 2nd Session of the 49th Legislature (2004)

Representative Thad Balkman, District 45, Oklahoma House of Representatives will introduce House Bill 2284 to the 49<sup>th</sup> Legislature. Representative Balkman is Minority Whip and serves on the Economic Development Committee, Higher Education Committee, Judiciary Committee, and the Mental Health Committee as Vice-Chair. Representative Balkman has been instrumental in preparing and presenting amendments to the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act to include provisions for training. Senator Bruce Price will author the bill in the Senate. Senator Price, District 23, is Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and serves as a member of Aerospace and Technology Committee, Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Regulatory Service, Commerce Committee, Finance Committee, and the General Government Committee. House Bill 2284 will provide for the hiring and employment by municipal governing bodies of accredited floodplain administrators. Accredited Floodplain Administrators would be persons with knowledge of floodplain management and in minimization and prevention of flood hazards and losses. Accreditation standards would include: 1) Passage of an examination; 2) Completion of approved training; or 3) Certification by a nationally recognized floodplain management organization.

We are thankful to Representative Balkman and Senator Price for introducing House Bill 2284. Now it is time for the members of OFMA to promote the bill to legislators and public officials. Tell your Mayor and City Manager the importance of this bill and write to your Representative and Senator today indicating your support for the amendment to the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act, HB2284.

#### Rex Hennen - A CFM success story!

At the December 5, 2003 City of Shawnee Commission meeting, Rex was presented with his National CFM Certification and was named Employee of the Month for December, which included a certificate and a \$40 gift certificate to Garfield's Restaurant (which made it all worthwhile!).

Congratulations Rex!

#### Notes from the Chair—Andy Kincaid

You can tell its springtime in Oklahoma because it is 65 degrees between ice storms. A very active spring is in store for OFMA, starting with the Legislative Day February 25, 2004, the first Poster Contest and two very exciting spring meetings.

The Legislative Day is important to every member of OFMA, as we are able to present our needs to our legislators. This year a bill to require training for every Floodplain Manager in Oklahoma is on the floor. We need every OFMA member to visit with their respective Representative and Senator to express the need for this legislation. Arkansas and New Mexico have this legislation in place. OFMA needs to be a leader not a follower!

The Poster Contest is an innovative method of outreach. Thanks to Laureen Gibson Gilroy, the Fourth Grade students of Oklahoma will be able to say they had the chance to participate in the "First OFMA Poster Contest." All members should be approaching classes in their areas to participate. Go to http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tadd/ to get information concerning this year's topic "TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN."

Registration and schedules for this year's spring meetings are included in this BFE. Two meeting are scheduled, Cache, March 5th and Jenks, March 12th. These meetings are informational and you can earn valuable CEC's. SEE YOU THERE!

#### Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

#### Vision

Floodplains are for floodwaters, habitat, water quality enhancement and recreation.

#### Mission

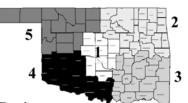
We encourage and support, with our partners, flood-safe development and flood mitigation. We promote sound floodplain management practices and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain. We support the floodplain management profession through education and certification.

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

# An Invitation to Join OFMA

#### **The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association** is a non-profit organization primarily dedicated to

organization primarily dedicated to providing information and education to the public about reduction of loss of life and property due to flooding.



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

OFMA Regions

#### **OFMA Membership Application**

Name:		Company/Organization:Address:				
Title:						
		City/Town:	State:		Zip:	
Fax:		E-Mail:				
Detach and Mail to: <b>OFMA</b> P.O. Box 8101	New Member: Renewal: Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5 Committees:	Dues Schedule: First-Year dues are probat you join. The fiscal year s		1 <sup>st</sup> and end		
Tulsa, OK 74101-8101	Mitigation	Full Membership	\$ 30.00		\$ 15.00	\$ 7.50
О <sub>Г.М.</sub>	Mapping and Engineering Education/Legislative Certification	Student Membership Associate Membership Agency Membership (Plus \$10.00 per employee	15.00 20.00 50.00 designated by t	11.25 15.00 37.50 the Agency	7.50 10.00 25.00	3.75 5.00 12.50
A	Conference	Corporate Sponsor	100.00	75.00	50.00	25.00

#### Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator Mike Mathis, Oklahoma Water Resources Board

In January, the OWRB hosted an extremely successful week-long workshop for state floodplain officials entitled "Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP." Held in Norman under the tutelage of instructors Ken Morris, of the OWRB, and Lonnie Ward, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the classes culminated in a two-hour examination for 31 local officials seeking to become Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs). The CFM program, established by the Association of State Floodplain Managers, recognizes continuing education and professional development that enhance the knowledge and performance of local, state, federal, and private-sector floodplain managers. I'm happy to report that all 31 individuals who took the test passed, attesting to their advanced knowledge of NFIP standards and procedures and the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act. I'd like to thank the members of the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Association, our partners in this effort, for making this workshop our most successful ever, as well as the OWRB's Rhonda Bowers, who reviewed the CFM applications and class enrollment procedures.

I'd like to remind Oklahoma's floodplain management community that the OWRB's Spring 2004 Floodplain 101 Workshops are scheduled for May 4 (McAlester Campus, Eastern Oklahoma State College), May 6 (Lawton Public Library), May 11 (Woodward, High Plains Technology Center), May 13 (Bartlesville, Technology Center), and May 25 (Midwest City Community Building). Each of the workshops will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The format of these free and extremely beneficial training sessions will be identical to previous years, with one exception: a Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) representative will present a short-course on the agency's Wetlands Restoration Program. This promises to be an informative discussion on the many benefits and uses of Oklahoma's vitally important floodplain areas.

Through proclamations signed recently by Governor Henry, Oklahomans will once again observe Flood Insurance Month in March and Flood Awareness Month in May. Each year, these proclamations provide critical assistance to the OWRB and our floodplain management partners in "getting the word out" about wise development and the persistent dangers posed by floodwaters.

Through a grant from Oklahoma Emergency Management, the OWRB is compiling a database of repetitive loss structures in Oklahoma. Among associated tasks, staff will verify addresses, take digital photos, and obtain longitudes and latitudes of these structures. This information will prove vital in mitigating future flooding disasters, especially in securing funds to remove these structures from harm's way. On a related note, OWRB staff are revising the Guidebook for Local Floodplain Ordinance Administrators and working to develop Oklahoma's Floodplain Management 101 Textbook. These educational materials can be used as a home study course, CFM study guide, and textbook for the OWRB's Floodplain Management 101 workshops.

The upcoming legislative session promises to be an active one in the floodplain management arena. Specifically, Rep. Thad Balkman has introduced legislation, House Bill 2284, to establish accreditation standards for Oklahoma's floodplain administrators. I urge all OFMA members to closely follow this and other issues that will guide the future of floodplain management and flood damage mitigation in Oklahoma.

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

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

Or call Carolyn Schultz (918) 669-4919

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

Shipping and handling \$4.95 per order.

# OFMA General Store



Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma Dusty Birdsong 429 NE 50<sup>th</sup> Street Oklahoma City, OK 73105 405 524-3200 405 524-3700 fax

#### Atkins-Benham

Barend Meiling, PE, CFM 2488 East 81<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 6000 Tulsa, OK 74137 918 492-1600 918 492-1031 fax bmeiling@atkinsbenham.com

#### **R.D. Flanagan & Associates**

Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM 2745 East Skelly Drive, Suite 100 Tulsa, OK 74105 918 749-2696 918-749-2697 fax rdflanagan@rdflanagan.com

#### FTN Associates, Ltd.

Conrad Battreal, PE, CFM 3 Innwood Circle, Suite 220 Little Rock, AR 72211 501 225-7779 501 225-6738 fax cjb@ftn-assoc.com

#### **Grand River Dam Authority**

Robert W. Sullivan, Jr. Asst. General Manager of Risk Management & Regulatory Compliance P.O. Box 409 Vinita, OK 74301-0409 918 256-5545, x4467 918 256-5289 fax bsullivan@grda.com

#### Halff Associates, Inc.

Troy L. Lovell, P.E. Vice President 4000 Fossil Creek Boulevard Fort Worth, TX 76137 817 847-1422 llovell@halff.com

#### Harden and Associates Surveying Jim Harden, LS

10759 East Admiral Place Tulsa, OK 74116 918 234-4859 918 437-0540 fax jim@guyengr.com

#### JGVE, Inc.

Donald D. Vick, PE 124 NW 10th St., Suite 101 Oklahoma City, OK 73103 405 236-8313 405 232-2660 fax dvick@jgve.com

#### **International Center for Natural**

Hazards & Disaster Research Baxter Vieux, Ph.D., PE 202 West Boyd, CEC Room 334 Norman, OK 73019 405 325-3600 bvieux@ou.edu

#### Meshek and Associates, Inc.

Janet K. Meshek, PE P.O. Box 636 20 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 100 Sand Springs, OK 74063 918 241-2803 918 241-9245 fax jmeshek@meshekengr.com

#### **Myers Engineering**

Bill Myers President 116 Northwest 132<sup>nd</sup> Oklahoma City, OK 73112 405 755-5325

#### **Oklahoma Insurance Department**

Carroll Fisher, Commissioner P.O. Box 53408 Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3408 405 521-6655

#### **Oklahoma Municipal League**

201 N.E. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3199 405 528-7515 Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors David Anderson P.O. Box 720126 Oklahoma City, OK 73172 405 840-9116

#### PBS&J

12101 Indian Creek Court Beltsville, MD 20705 301 210-6800

#### Smith Roberts Baldischwiler, LLC

Mathew Smith, PE 25 South Oklahoma Avenue Suite 400 Oklahoma City, OK 73104 405 840-7094 405 840-2977 fax mat@smith-roberts.com

# Swift Water Resources Engineering, LLC

Mark S. Swift, PE, CFM President 6 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, #205 Tulsa, OK 74103-4434 918 582-1380 918 582-1381 fax swiftwaterresources@msn.com

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The B.F.E.

February 2004

NONPROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID TULSA, OK PERMIT NO. 398

**Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association** PO Box 8101 Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

Change Service Requested

Funding Acknowledgement

Funds to produce *The B.F.E.* come in part from the National Flood Insurance Program, State Support Services Element of the Community Assistance Program, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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