

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

***OKLAHOMA ORGANIZATION BRIDGES
OBSTACLES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR
OKLAHOMANS AND BOLIVIAN!***

Page 4



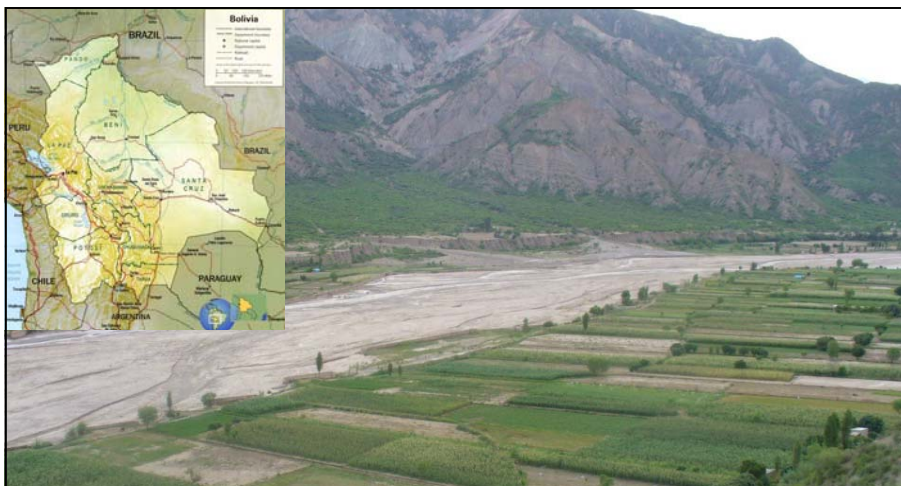
OKLAHOMA

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EWB—Oklahoma East Chapter & Bolivia

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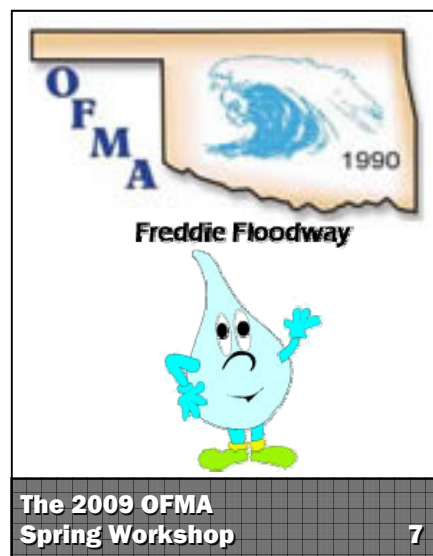
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On The Cover: Rebecca Ward, EI, of Guy Engineering, is President of EWB—Oklahoma East Chapter, whose work in Bolivia improves the quality of life for hundreds of people on a daily basis.

Contact

The
B.F.E.*

Via email



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Ste 1080
Tulsa, OK 74112



via snail mail

Contact

PO BOX 8101
Tulsa, OK 74101-8101
www.okflood.org



Comments from the Chair

Strategic Retreat at the Cherokee Nation Hotel in Catoosa – January 22-23, 2009.

What a great retreat this year! Hat's off to Bill Smith and the tremendous amount of work and effort he put forth to help guide OFMA in the coming year. More details will be provided by the Executive Director in his news article on page 10.

At the OFMA Board meeting held on January 23, the long needed action to **increase dues was taken. Beginning in the 2009-2010 OFMA year** the dues will change from **\$30 to \$50** per individual member, from **\$100 to \$150** for the corporate membership and from **\$50 to \$75** for the Agency memberships. Several factors contribute to this urgent need:

1. OFMA's Annual and Spring Conferences for the last three years have been consistently under funded.
2. Our operational expenses have increased.
3. We have no paid employees.
4. Expenses for web master and web site maintenance have increased.

In order to keep service levels up to standards, we need to increase our fees.

One of the key components to emerge out of the retreat was an emphasis on holding **Regional Luncheons to network with your Regional Representative and regional colleagues over lunch.** Look for notices of these luncheons and contact your Regional Representative:

Region 1: Leslie Lewis – 405.521.6500

Region 2: David Cross – 918.249.3909

Region 3: Joseph Marquardt – 580.931.6611

Region 4: Dale Lasley – 405.643.9213

Region 5: Clint Strawn – 580.327.2126

OFMA Regions



CAP (Community Assistance Program) Meeting at FEMA – January 28-30 – Was

off to a harrowing start as Ken Morris provided safe passage down I-35 to Denton into the teeth of the ICE and SNOW Storm deposits for Gavin Brady, Ellen Steven and I. A great thanks to Ken and his wonder truck with four wheel drive and all-terrain "hunting" tires.

At the CAP meeting FEMA staff provided several items that were of note which included the **"Outreach Plan for 2009", "Map MOD update for several Oklahoma Communities regarding Post Preliminary Process", "Risk Map", "DFIRM 101 Workshop"** and a challenge by Ross Richardson FMI Branch Chief regarding a response by the Association on how to approach the issue of **"Substantial Damage"**.

In regard to the **Region VI National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Outreach Plan for 2009.** This is a **more aggressive Community Assistance Contacts (CAC's) and Community Assistance Visits (CAV's) program** (i.e. more visits). Staff from FEMA or from the NFIP State Coordinator's Office and/or OWRB on behalf of FEMA will visit with a community to provide technical assistance to the community and assure that the community is adequately enforcing its floodplain management regulations. In Oklahoma, the CAV is either performed by staff from FEMA Region VI and/or from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board NFIP Coordinator staff and usually only after a Community Assistance Contact.

A CAV is also an important and key part of the **CRS (Community Rating System) program for reduced flood insurance rates** and consists of a tour of the floodplain, an inspection of community permit files and meetings with local appointed and elected officials. FEMA, OWRB, and NFIP Staff (State) and OFMA workshops also assist community officials to learn about compliance with NFIP requirements. The State will work with the community to help bring their program into compliance with NFIP requirements. In extreme cases where the community does not take action to bring itself into compliance, FEMA may initiate and enforce action against the community.

See:
<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodplain/nfipkeywords/cav.shtm>

FEMA also outlined **MAP MOD Post-Preliminary Activities** which include the following fifteen (15) counties in Oklahoma:

Grady, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Sequoyah, Adair, Seminole, Caddo, Custer, Delaware, Le Flore, McCurtain, Pontotoc, Mayes, Jackson and Woodward.



We also received some updated information on the **new Risk Map Program** (see illustration on page 6) from Jack Quarles, Regional FEMA Engineer and Ramesh Cintala of the RMC. According to the FEMA website on Risk Map – it **"combines flood hazard mapping, risk assessment tools and Mitigation Planning into one seamless program. The intent of this integrated program is to encourage beneficial partnerships and innovative uses of flood hazard and risk assessment data in order to maximize flood loss reduction."**

See:
<http://www.fema.gov/plan/ffmm.shtm>

According to Jack Quarles, Risk Map through collaboration with State, Local, and Tribal entities will reduce losses of life and property through effective local mitigation activities. These activities are enabled by quality flood hazard data, risk assessments and mitigation planning by: **Identifying, assessing, communicating and mitigating the risk** with a primary goal of providing a new study, or new detailed study, where either the old study was inconclusive or it never was studied.

DFIRM 101 Workshop: Diane Calhoun (dcalhoun@mbakercorp.com) and Dean Lee (dlee@mbakercorp.com) of the RMC – Michael Baker Jr. presented their planning for a series of workshops to be held on "digital FIRM's. Beginning October 1, 2009, FEMA will

(Continued on page 6)

Engineers Without Borders (EWB_USA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide and improve their quality of life. The partnership involves the implementation of sustainable engineering projects, while involving and training internationally responsible engineers and engineering students.

Many communities throughout the world do not have even the most basic quality of life issues which engineering provides: potable water, sanitation, electricity, roads, bridges, and dams.

The activities of EWB-USA range from the construction of sustainable systems that developing communities may own and operate without external assistance, to empowering such communities by enhancing local, technical, managerial and entrepreneurial skills. Communications, brown and black water disposal, micro hydraulic electric plants, irrigation, adobe housing design, and micro manufacturing techniques can also make a positive impact in these communities.

These projects are initiated by, and completed with, contributions from the host community working with a local chapter. The



focus of this article is in Tulsa, Oklahoma,



the center for the EWB – Oklahoma East chapter which is currently working on projects within Bolivia.

One challenge which the Oklahoma East chapter has witnessed in Bolivia is that the poorest and most remote communities (the ones who need these projects the most) have neither the knowledge nor the means to develop these project proposals.

Working with students from the University of Tulsa, the chapter is currently planning a site assessment trip, scheduled for May 2009, to the area of Cotani, about 30 miles (39 km) northwest of Cochabamba. An implementation trip to build the first three to four ecolatrine will follow in August, 2009. A series of 40 sustainable ecolatrine are being designed for use by the residents of this area, one for each of the 37 families, and three for public use at the local school, hospital, and library. At this time the sanitary practices of the population are proving to be harmful to the quality of life and are sub-par when compared to the conditions Americans take for granted.

Please consider being a part of this exciting endeavor. Whether you just wish to follow the successes and impact upon the residents of the projects, or are interested in being a sponsor who believes, as we do, that supporting global engineering and global health is an investment in the future. The individuals of the EWB—Oklahoma East chapter would be happy to meet with you to provide



more detailed information about the team and the key role you could play in EWB.



EWB-OK East will be traveling to Cotani several times over the

next few years to build all 40 ecolatrine and any donation is welcome and tax deductible. Engineers Without Borders is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization through which you may support these endeavors. A total of \$4000 is needed to complete the site assessment trip in May and another \$20,000 is needed for the implementation trip at the end of the summer.



Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 5:30pm at the offices of

Guy Engineering Services, at 10759 E. Admiral Place in Tulsa (phone: 918-437-0282). We always welcome visitors and new members.

Please click on this link for more information www.ewb-usa.org. Please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca Ward at 918.437.0282 or via e-mail at rebecca@guyengr.com.



Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Gavin Brady, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator

Floodplain Management Never Rests

Oklahoma appears to be entering another drought period which makes this the perfect time to focus on your communities floodplain management program. Oklahoma experienced significant flooding in 2007-08. Time associated with these disasters consumed many hours away from the office and away from everyday operations.

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board and FEMA taught the week long "Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program" February 2-6. Thirty-six participants attended the weeklong training, a full class. This class was originally offered at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Oklahoma lobbied FEMA and was awarded the opportunity to bring the class to Oklahoma. Since 1997, Oklahoma has offered the class every year in January or February and sometimes in August depending on supplemental CAP funds. OWRB is fortunate this year, thanks to supplemental funds we will offer the course on August 3-7, 2009. Twenty individuals on the February class waiting list can now be moved to the August class. The prestige to become a CFM has created a great demand to attend F273, Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP. If you are interested in attending, I recommend you register immediately at www.owrb.ok.gov, to guarantee a spot. The agenda for this class includes sections on outreach, risk determination and mapping, BFE considerations, regulations, the permitting process, substantial damage/improvement, insurance requirements, legal issues and problem solving. During this time of drought, take the opportunity to refine your communities floodplain management program by considering higher standards, review and upgrade your local floodplain management ordinances,



identify structures in your community that experience repetitive flooding and consider buying them out.

The OWRB and OFMA recently attended the semi annual CAP-SSSE meeting at FEMA Region VI in Denton, TX. Items discussed included the annual budget awarded to each State. At a time when most budgets are being cut, the OWRB was awarded an additional 10% for FY2009. With the additional funds, the OWRB has contracted with OFMA to build the Disaster Relief Team (DRT) established in 2008. The DRT is the brainchild of past Chairman, Bill Smith and established to assist communities after a flood. The DRT was launched after recent flooding in the City of Blackwell and unincorporated Kay County. One of the responsibilities associated with participation in the NFIP is that communities must determine if a structure is substantially damaged during a flooding event. Substantial damage means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50% of the fair market value of the structure before the damage occurred. DRT, when asked by a community, will assist in the substantial damage determination. It is very important to make this determination quickly after a flood and before individuals start repairing structures that might be substantially damaged. If a structure is substantially damaged, the structure must meet the local requirements that are currently in effect which include the lowest floor being elevated at least to the BFE. This is required to break the cycle of repetitive flooding. Please visit www.okflood.org for more information on DRT and other OFMA programs.

Gavin Brady, CFM
NFIP State Coordinator

OFMA www.okflood.org
ASFP www.floods.org
OWRB www.owrb.state.ok.us
FEMA www.fema.gov
OEM www.ok.gov/oem
Corps of Engineers (USACE)
www.swt.usace.army.mil
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

W ok.water.usgs.gov
E Advanced Study Institute
B web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi
S CLOMR/LOMR Forms:
I www.fema.gov/fhm/frm_form.shtm
T EPA NPDES Phase II site:
E www.epa.gov/npdes/
S SMRC Stormwater Mgr Resource Cen-

ter: www.stormwatercenter.net
FEMA Official NFIP Site:
www.floodsmart.gov
Link to: 44 CFR Ch. I (10-1-02Edition)
http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/fr/waisidx/02/44cfrv1_02.html
Webmaster: Michael Couch
mcouch@meshekengr.com

The best investment that \$50.00 can buy in the future of your state is a membership in the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

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

Full Membership	\$50.00
Student Membership	15.00
Associate Membership	20.00
Agency Membership	75.00
(Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)	
Corporate Sponsor	150.00

An Invitation to Join OFMA



OFMA Regions

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

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

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



Name: _____ Phone: _____ Co./Org.: _____
Title: _____ Email: _____ Address: _____

(Continued from page 3)

be going totally digital – no more paper maps other than the initial paper map provided to the community, therefore, the reason behind the workshop.

See:

http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dfm_dfhm.shtm.

As you might guess there was exception from some of the associations present and a request that a Poll within each state association be made to determine **the computer access** of all of its Flood Plain Administrators. So if you read this and do not have a computer, please respond to your Regional Administrator quickly, as this is very important.

Your leadership is planning a workshop at the Annual Conference to discuss application of **DFIRM 101 Workshop** to communities in the NFIP, tools for use and advantages. Did you know that topographical data is not a part of the DFIRM data base? Just the horizontal data within +/- 38 feet.

How to approach Substantial Damage: Ross Richardson FMI Branch Chief has submitted a challenge to all state associations within Region VI to respond to the issue of substantial damage on a holistic basis. Therefore the challenge is to develop an overall strategy to approach this issue which is fraught with planning, operational, political, and funding sub-issues.

Your leadership will be working toward a March 1, 2009, deadline to supply this response and if you have any input please contact us and/or your Regional Representative with your comments and/or suggestions.

Training and Education:

Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP

Your Chairman provided a Presentation on the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) to the Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP class on Friday the 6th of February. Every one of us should be prepared to give a presentation about OFMA to our local civic groups and city staff. Every time I give this presentation I learn more about how dynamic and diverse our organization is statewide and how great and talented its membership is. I am proud to represent you! Out of a class of 36 attendees **32 qualified to take the CFM exam**. We look forward to them joining our ranks as CFM members.

Floodplain Training Opportunities for 2009

<http://okflood.org/asp/asp/page.aspx?Target=TrainingOpps>

With **17 training workshops** scheduled for the remainder of 2009 there is one with your name on it! Mark your calendar and attend. It is very important to stay up to date with continuing education credits and get those questions answered as well as visit with your professional colleagues on lessons learned!

Legislative Reception will be held March 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the State Capitol in Room 412A. This is a great opportunity to meet with our State Legislative Representative and visit with them about the NFIP and OFMA's programs and issues that our communities are facing regarding management of the floodplain.

Are you Ready? Spring is coming and with it stormy weather and possible flooding now is a good time to go over your preparedness planning. If you have questions please consult www.okflood.org, call your Regional Representative and/or OWRB staff.

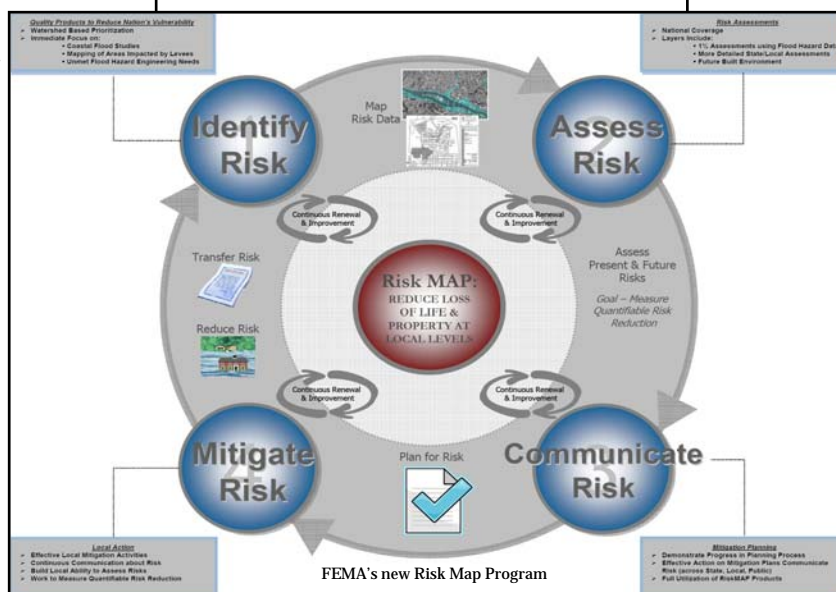
And finally a note from the **ASFPM February 2009 Newsletter Vol. 21, No. 1** – which underlines how well you know your floodplain:



City Liable for Issuing Erroneous Building Elevations

A Lancaster County, Nebraska, judge has ordered the City of Lincoln to pay \$405,000 to three couples who were given city-issued building permits **but not told that their new homes would be in a 10-year floodplain.**

According to court records, the City knew well before the families purchased the lots that the area was in a floodplain. A State Department of Natural Resources study of the area, completed and submitted to the City in January 1997, showed a flood-elevation level of 1,208 feet. City employees put the map in the subdivision's file at the Building and Safety office. But when the city issued building permits to the families between 1998 and 2003, each was given a floodplain elevation based on an older, and inaccurate, map from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. When notified of the true flooding risk in 2005, after the homes were built, the three couples brought lawsuits against the City.



Spring Technical Conference in Jenks.

Join us for a tour of Tulsa's floodplains and see floodplain management techniques up close. Watch www.okflood.org for sign up information.

Of Note:

TADD Calendars. Do you have our new Turn Around Don't Drown Calendars? Plan to get copies from your Regional Representative for distribution and tell the story!

DRT – Disaster Response Team. We are quickly approaching another Spring flood season - the DRT has been funded in part by the Community Assistance Program (CAP) – look forward to information from Bill Smith P.E., CFM – the DRT Coordinator. You may volunteer and/or assist this program by calling or contacting Bill at **918.625.2449** or wbsmith@hisinc.us.

Based on the testimony of expert witnesses, the judge took the following factors into account in determining the damages owed: (1) there is a distinction between a home with a dry basement and one that takes on water, regardless of whether it is in a floodplain; (2) a home in a floodplain would be valued differently than the same home in another location (for this area, testimony established the value of floodplain houses at from 5% to 19% lower than non-floodplain houses); and (3) the frequency of flooding probably also would affect what someone would pay for a house.

full story at:

<http://journalstar.com/articles/2008/12/27/news/local/doc4956b94348451757377273.txt>

OFMA Chair
Clark M. Williams, CFM

Press Release: Washington, DC - The U.S. House of Representatives Historian's office has determined that Congressman John D. Dingell (D-MI15) will become the longest serving House Member in U.S. history on February 11, 2009, passing Congressman Jamie Whitten from Mississippi. An earlier report by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) indicated that the Congressman would break the record on February 14, 2009, but the Historian's office and CRS reviewed the findings again and found a mistake in the count of days served by Mr. Dingell.

"I've made a couple of math mistakes in my day, so I can hardly blame the people that came up with the original number," Dingell said. "I'm just glad the House Historian's office found the error and Congressional Research Service worked with the historians to get it



Dean of the House of Representatives,
The Honorable John D. Dingell.

right. CRS also does tremendous work and we have great respect for their research."

Coming from Michigan, a state blessed with the Great Lakes, Congressman Dingell understands the importance of the Lakes to Michigan, as well as our Nation. Michigan owes its tourism industry to the Great Lakes – people come from around the country to recreate, hunt fish and relax. The Lakes as a transportation system provide Michigan and the Nation with the means to be a manufacturing powerhouse. That is just one of the reasons the Congressman has made clean water one of his top priorities, playing an integral role in the 1972 Clean Water Act. OFMA recognizes the impact Congressman Dingell has had on legislation that not only affects Michigan, but that of Oklahoma, OFMA and the Nation as well.



ANNOUNCING THE 2009 OFMA Spring Workshop

April 2, 2009

Tulsa Technology Center

801 East 91st Street, Tulsa, OK

Freddie Floodway



"Do ONE THING for Better Floodplain Management"

8:00 - 8:30 – Registration and coffee

8:30 to 10:15 - Welcomes and Lecture Presentations

8:30 to 8:45 – OFMA Chair and local officials

8:45 to 9:00 – State NFIP Coordinator, Gavin Brady, CFM

9:00 to 9:45 – Preview of Papers to be Presented at ASFPM

Bill Smith, CFM – "OFMA Disaster Response Team (DRT) Volunteer Program"

Ron Flanagan, CFM – "Elm Creek: Flood Mitigation, the Key to Urban Revitalization"

Ellen Stevens, CFM – "Preserving Natural and Beneficial Uses Through Low Impact Development"

9:45 to 10:15 – Presentation about OFMA Committees

10:15 to 10:30 - Break

10:30 to 12 noon - Lecture Presentations:

10:30 to 11:30 – "Tulsa Regulatory Floodplains," introduction to tour, Bill Robison, CFM; Ron Flanagan, CFM

11:30 to 12 noon – FEMA Region 6 update, Ross Richardson and Carl Watts

12:00 to 12:45 - Break, pick up box lunches, get on bus

12:45 to 2:45 - Tour of Tulsa Floodplain Projects

2:45 to 3:15 - Return to TTC, Break

3:15 to 4:00 - Closing session and door prizes - Clark Williams, CFM moderator

Optional Extra Session

4:00 to 5:00 – The DRT (Introductory session for prospective volunteers) – Bill Smith

**DESIGNED FOR ANYONE
INVOLVED WITH
FLOODPLAIN ISSUES**

Floodplain Administrators

Planners

Engineers

Insurance Agents

Lenders

Real Estate Professionals

Elected & Appointed Officials

Local, State & Federal

Government Employees

Interested Citizens

Dam Owners

Developers

Emergency Responders

Teachers and Students

Overnight Lodging— A variety of hotels/motels are available in the vicinity. For a listing, visit the Jenks Chamber of Commerce Web Site: <http://www.jenkschamber.com/general.asp?id=55>

Mail or FAX this form by March 15, 2009, to: OFMA, P. O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

REGISTRATION FORM – 2009 OFMA Spring Workshop

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____ E-mail: _____

Conference Registration (Check One) ☐ OFMA Member \$60 \$ _____

☐ Non-Member \$70 \$ _____

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

☐ Check enclosed

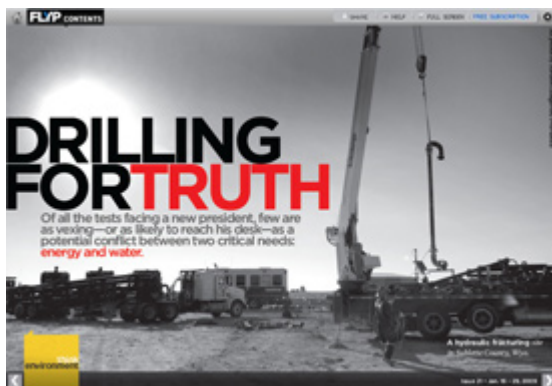
☐ Send invoice

☐ I will pay at the conference

Gas Drilling Update: An Industry Setback in Utah, Plus an Overview From FLYP Media

by Abrahm Lustgarten, ProPublica - January 21, 2009 3:49 pm EST

A U.S. District Court judge put the brakes on a 110,000-acre last-minute sale of federal lands for natural gas drilling in Utah last week, adding another voice to a chorus of concerns over the environmental prudence of the Bush administration's energy policy. The judge, Ricardo M. Urbina, found that the Bureau of Land Management's management plans and environmental analysis for the lands that border Arches National Park and other significant scenic areas failed to adequately study air pollution and other impacts. His decision to stay the highly contested sale, which took place Dec. 19, will allow the court time to fully evaluate a lawsuit brought by environmental organizations challenging the sale.



Flyp Media, an online multimedia magazine, has published an expanded, interactive version of our gas drilling coverage.

The ongoing saga in Utah is one of several unfolding around the country as natural gas development accelerates amidst concerns that it may be harming water and air quality. [ProPublica has been closely following these developments](#) [1], and [Flyp](#) [2], an online multimedia magazine, has published an expanded, interactive version of our coverage. It includes exclusive conversations with a former director of the Bureau of Land Management and an industry spokesman, a slideshow, and a graphic explaining the drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing.

This story can be found on the web at the following address:

<http://www.propublica.org/article/gas-drilling-update-an-industry-set-back-in-utah-plus-an-overview-from-flyp/>

Links

1. <http://www.propublica.org/feature/how-the-wests-energy-boom-could-threaten-drinking-water-for-1-in-12-america>
2. <http://www.flypmedia.com/issues/21/#3/1> - Reprinted with Permission from ProPublica -



2010 ASFPM National Conference



June 13th—19th, 2010, Renaissance Hotel & Conference Center, Oklahoma City, OK

The week of June 13th—19th, 2010, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) will convene the world's principal floodplain management conference. The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) is the local host for this exciting event. At this once-in-a-life-time opportunity local, state, and federal officials, as well as consultants, industry leaders and additional interested parties will be gathered together attending sessions relevant to a single theme.

During the week industry experts will organize plenary and concurrent sessions and share progressive information in techniques, programs, and resources to accomplish flood mitigation, watershed management, and other community goals.

Please plan now to join with participants from across the nation at this electrifying event. Look to upcoming issues from the *BFE* or ask OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; website: www.okflood.org for more detailed information as we draw closer to this occasion.

By the Numbers 014

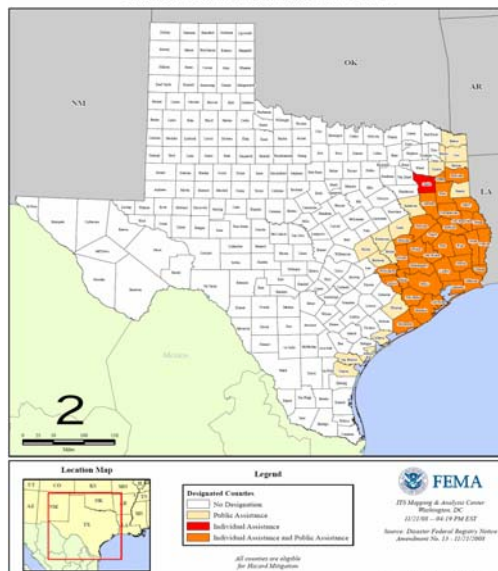
NFIP Helps Texas Rebuild After Hurricane Ike

Release Date: December 4, 2008

Release Number: 1791-303

» [More Information on Texas Hurricane Ike](#)

FEMA-1791-DR, Texas
Disaster Declaration as of 11/21/2008



AUSTIN, Texas -- Thousands of Texans who are rebuilding their homes and their lives after Hurricane Ike are being helped by flood insurance payouts.

Congress established the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 with two goals: to protect communities from potential flood damage through floodplain management and to provide people with flood insurance. Flood insurance, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is the best protection that residents and businesses have against the devastating financial losses that floods can cause.

"By the numbers" information for the National Flood Insurance Program includes the following:

- 5.6 million was the number of policies in force nationwide as of September 2008.
- \$1.2 trillion was the amount of NFIP coverage provided by those policies.

- 504,409 was the number of policies in force in September 2008 in the 34 Texas counties eligible for federal disaster assistance to individuals, families and businesses in connection with Hurricane Ike.
- \$58.1 billion was the amount of coverage provided by the NFIP policies in those 34 counties.
- \$1.8 million was the amount of insured flood losses in Texas in the 10 years from 1998 through 2007.
- \$7,800 is the estimated cost of a flood that is 2 inches deep in a single home.
- 30 is the number of days in the waiting period for a flood insurance policy to take effect.

For decades, the National Flood Insurance Program has offered flood insurance to homeowners, renters and business owners, with the one condition that their communities adopt and enforce measures to help reduce the consequences of flooding.

Additional information is available through local insurance agents, by going online to www.floodsmart.gov or by calling **1-800-638-6620**.

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

- Reprinted with Permission from FEMA -
<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=46996>



Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **2008 Floodplain Management 101 or Map Modernization; the Map Adoption Process, & Advanced Floodplain Management**
Floodplain Management Class Schedule. Apply online or Contact Cathy Poage (580) 256-1014
March 3, 2009 - 101 in Lawton, Advanced in Lawton
March 5, 2009 - 101 in Woodward, Advanced in Woodward
March 10, 2009 - 101 in Bartlesville, Advanced in Bartlesville
March 12, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Substantial Damage Estimator in Tulsa
March 24, 2009 - 101 in McAlester, Advanced in McAlester
April 9, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Advanced in Norman
May 12, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Letter Of Map Change in Norman
May 14, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Letter Of Map Change in Tulsa
- **2009 OFMA Spring Workshop:** April 2, 2009; Tulsa Technology Center, 801 E 91 St, Tulsa, OK; www.okflood.org
- **ASFPM Annual Conference Green Works to Reduce Flood Losses:** June 7-12, 2009; Orlando, FL. Sponsored by ASFPM; website: www.floods.org
- **30th Annual Governor's Water Conference & 7th Annual OWRRI Water Research Symposium:** To Be Determined—Fall, 2009; website: <http://environ.okstate.edu/owrri/>
- **OFMA 19th Annual Conference:** September 21-23, 2009, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, 74074. Contact: OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; website: www.okflood.org.
- **NAFSMA Annual Conference:** October 21-23, 2009, Broadmoor Resort, Colorado Springs, CO, 80901; website: <http://www.nafsma.org/>
- **IAEM Annual Fall Conference & EMEX Exhibit:** October 31-November 5, 2009, Orange Co. Convention Center and Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL; website: <http://www.iaem.com/>
- **2010 ASFPM National Conference:** June 13th-19th, 2010, Oklahoma City OK. Local Host OFMA; website: www.okflood.org.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Alas another year is passing quickly. The OFMA Board, Committee Chair and invited guests just completed the 2008-2009 Strategic Plan Retreat. The Retreat was held at the Cherokee Nation Hotel in Catoosa, Oklahoma on January 22 – 23, 2009. This year's planning session was one day shorter than in past years. The Strategic Plan Retreat was moderated by Bill Smith, Past Chair. All of the OFMA officers – Clark Williams (Chair), Ellen Stevens (Vice Chair), Carolyn Schultz (Treasurer), and Amy Brandley (Secretary) were present. In addition – Ken Morris, Executive Director, Gavin Brady – State NFIP Coordinator, David Cross – Region 2 Representative, and Clint Strawn – Region 4 Representative. Many of our Committee Chairs were also present including Cecil Bearden – Mitigation, Omeed Mollaian – Membership, Joe Remondini – PDCC, Joe Robinson – Education, Bill Robison – Mapping, and Ana Stagg – Legislative.

The Retreat included a brief review the Constitution and Bylaws, Vision and Mission Statement, and the past year's Strategic Plan and current OFMA Program activities to evaluate if changes were necessary or needed and then focus on the Vision for the 2008-2009 OFMA term of Chair Clark Williams.

A summary of the result of the Retreat was as follows:

- The DRT is now funded in part in part by FEMA CAP funds and will be fully operational for the upcoming spring and fall flooding seasons. Bill Smith, DRT Coordinator is proceeding forward with notification letters to all communities and planning the equipment purchases as funds allow.
- The OFMA Board voted, based on the detailed discussions and evaluation during the Retreat to increase dues beginning at the 2009-2010 OFMA year from \$30 to \$50 per individual member, Corporate membership will increase from \$100 to \$150 and Agency membership will increase from \$50 to \$75. A more

detailed explanation of the dues increase will be forthcoming in a letter from the Chair.



- A volunteer, Christy Blair (daughter of Marsha Blair, FPA for Slaughterville) has stepped forward to assist OFMA with seeking Grant funding for ongoing projects, such as the DRT, mapping communities that currently have no floodplain maps but have designated SFHA's.
- OFMA is going to solicit university students to become active in floodplain management, attend OFMA conferences, and perhaps create Student Chapters at the various state universities.
- Additional training is planned in coordination with OML, OEM, Circuit Engineering Districts, Insurance Agents Associations and Realtors Associations to assist in floodplain management activities, regulations, etc.
- Each Regional Representative will host a

monthly luncheon in their respective regions for training, networking, communication of OFMA activities, etc.

- More discussions on publishing the BFE more frequently and more timely is likely.
- The OFMA webmaster, Michael Couch, is planning an OFMA blog to assist with communication between the OFMA Board and OFMA members and for members to communicate with each other.
- OFMA will evaluate "Pay-Pal" for payment of conference fees and on-line registration for the April 2, 2009, Spring Technical Workshop in Jenks, Oklahoma. If it is successful, it may be carried over for membership renewals and our annual conference registration.
- OFMA intends to prepare a detailed proposal to submit to OWRB to assist with portions of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan.
- A series of press releases will be developed for releases throughout the year for increased public outreach. Coordination with the local FPA is planned to ensure the releases are published.
- Two new brochures are proposed to be developed – one relating to Oil and Gas Permitting and the second relating to Availability of Flood Insurance and Requirements for Insurance on Public Structures.

After reflection of this year's Retreat it was decided to go back to a 2 and a half-day session October 14-16, 2009. The OFMA Board meeting is held during this time period too. If you are interested in attending the next retreat please contact me. Bill Smith did an excellent job this year and graciously agreed to facilitate the October Retreat. Thank you Bill!

W.K. Morris
Executive Director

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

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

Mission

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



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