



# The B.F.E.\*

\* Base Flood Elevation

## OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 7

July 2005

Number 4



### ***“The Challenge Continues” at the 15th Annual OFMA Conference***

OFMA’s 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is gearing up to be one of the best ever! This year’s theme entitled “Local Floodplain Management—The Challenge Continues” will draw attendees and presenters from across the State to beautiful Quartz Mountain Resort near Lone Wolf, Oklahoma. The Conference will be held September 19, 20, and 21 and is expected to be the premier event for floodplain administrators and advocates in Oklahoma. Attendees are sure to enjoy three days of expert presentations, small-group discussions, training sessions and exhibits as well as opportunities for site seeing and socializing.

With the positive response from last year’s conference at Western Hills State Lodge, a package price of \$175.00 is being provided which includes registration, materials, all meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner and banquet), socials and refreshments. Rooms will be available in the main lodge at a cost of \$65.00 per night for single and \$85.00 night for double. Cabins will also be available. For cabin rates, contact Quartz Mountain Resort registration.

This year’s program will provide a full spectrum of training in floodplain management issues. Three break out session tracks are planned with presenters offering topics sure to educate professionals in all ranges of floodplain management. This year, the *Engineering/Mapping*



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#### **FLOODPLAIN 101 TEXTBOOK RECEIVES A MAKEOVER**

Using funding from the Department of Homeland Security & FEMA’s Community Assistance Program, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board has released a new and improved update to the Floodplain 101 Textbook *Guidebook for Local Floodplain Ordinance Administrators*. This new version includes many of the chapters previously found in the textbook as well as a new chapter on “No Adverse Impact”. This updated guidebook is the most comprehensive edition to date since its original publication in 1990. Much of the text has been revised to address new and changing issues including laws, policies and procedures. Additionally, new illustrations have been added to help explain many of the complex floodplain concepts discussed in the Textbook. Eventually, this text will be used as an OWRB Home Study Course in Floodplain Management and allow local Floodplain Administrators to obtain Continuing Education Credits in the near future. If you are a local floodplain administrator and have not received one of these books please contact Ronda Bowers at the OWRB (405) 530-8800. The document can also be viewed online from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at <http://www.owrb.state.ok.us/hazard/fp/floodplain.php>. Additionally, FEMA Publication 480, the comprehensive study guide and desk reference for Local Officials entitled “National Flood Insurance Program Floodplain Management Requirements” is also available from the FEMA distribution center by calling (800) 480-2520.

### Hazards Mixed for Oklahoma Spring

No one ever said living in Oklahoma meant the weather would be predictable. This spring was no exception. Not only are precipitation totals for the Calendar Year far below normal, but tornadoes seemed to be non-existent for much of April, typically one of the most active months in the year. Even more notable, no fatalities occurred nationwide during the months of April, May and June as a result of tornadoes, the first time in recorded weather history! Currently, most of Oklahoma is still experiencing dry conditions although there has been about 3.5" of drought relief within the past few weeks following an unusually dry May.

Don't let these observations mislead you though. The rain that did come through this Spring brought with it flash floods and high winds resulting in property damages, road closings and power outages throughout the State. Perhaps the worst damage reported to the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management was near the City of Chickasha in Grady County during the overnight hours of June 10th.

Grady County Emergency Management Deputy Director Paulette Nichols said the straight-line winds were estimated at 100 mph or greater in the area, which caused major damage to seventeen homes and destroyed two additional homes within an area subdivision, just shy of the 40% damage to 25 homes for a Presidential Disaster Declaration. The National Weather Service has described the location of the event as the "apex of a bow front", but has not ruled out the possibility of a micro-downburst. Nichols, who performed the damage assessment, says that although there are no official scales for measuring straight-line winds like the fajita scale for tornadoes, damages can help to determine the strength and speed of the associated winds. The high wind event also downed power lines across the area including along a portion of I-44, which had to be closed for several hours overnight.



In another part of the State, Ponca City received a substantial amount of rain when it was caught in the line of an isolated thunderstorm overnight on May 19th. Community Development Director Chris Henderson reported unofficial estimates of 6" of rain in only a couple early morning hours amounting to a 100-year storm event in portions of the City. Due to the dry conditions prior to the storm, many of the drainage channels quickly filled with debris further intensifying the backwater impact of the event at area inlets. Henderson says the City posted an article in the local newspaper requesting feedback from residents on flood damages, which was received as "a positive response" from the citizens who were encouraged by the administration actions after the

storm. Overall, as many as 200 phone calls were received by the City further confirming the severity of the storm event. Calls were address matched into the City's GIS to further associate them to known flood zones. Henderson says the community is currently focusing on flood mitigation by undertaking a city-wide storm water drainage study that will help to accurately identify flood prone areas as well as identify recommendations to identified problem areas.

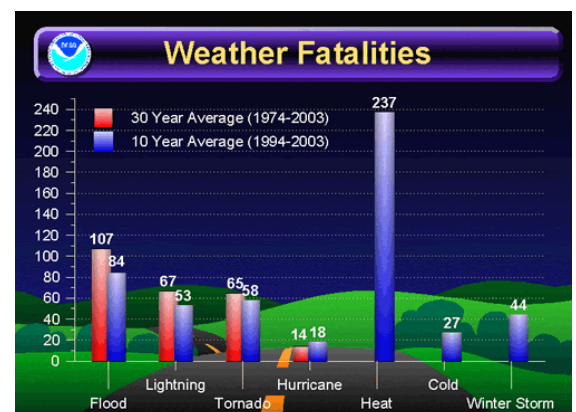
Across the State, downed power lines and high water conditions resulted in the closing of several Oklahoma highways. The dry conditions could result in a higher than average wild fire season and lower water levels at area lakes around the State. Furthermore, with temperatures already soaring to near 100°F in late June in parts of the State, heat is bound to be a concern for much of the State's elder and low income populations. For a detailed account of the Oklahoma 2005 Spring Season and all of its odd fluctuations visit the Oklahoma Climatological Survey's Seasonal Summaries at [http://climate.ocs.ou.edu/seasonal\\_summary.html](http://climate.ocs.ou.edu/seasonal_summary.html).

### SUMMER HAZARDS ARE FAST APPROACHING

Summer heat, after six years (1997-2002) as the most deadly weather hazard, has lost its annual deadliest ranking to floods. In 2003, only 36 lives were claimed by excessive heat, down dramatically from 167 in 2002. The 10-year average for heat related fatalities is 237, compared to 84 for floods, the most deadly weather hazard in 2003. In 2003, 44% (16) of the fatalities occurred in permanent homes and 36% (13) outside. Oklahoma, in 2003, had 3 heat related deaths, but no flood fatalities. As in the past, excessive heat most severely affects the elderly. Those aged 70 and up accounted for 44 percent of deaths. Twice as many males 67% (24) succumbed as females 33% (12).

The National Weather Service offers many public services that can be utilized by Floodplain Managers for aspects of Hazard Mitigation including graphics such as this free to use by the public domain. The U.S. Natural Hazard Statistics, a NWS web site providing statistical information up to 2003 on fatalities, injuries and damages from eight different weather related hazards, can be viewed by year, state or hazard and provides information on fatalities, injuries property damage, crop damage and totals. These statistics are compiled by the Office of Services and the National Climatic Data Center from information contained in *Storm Data*. To view the assembled *Storm Data* statistics visit:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hazstats.shtml>

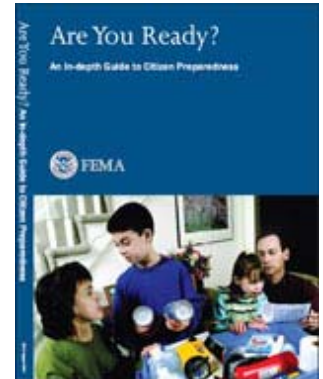


## FEMA Releases Updated *Are You Ready?*

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced the release of the updated, in-depth guide to citizen preparedness, *Are You Ready?* The guide provides a step-by-step approach to disaster preparedness by walking the reader through steps on how to get informed about local emergency plans and identify hazards that affect their area to instructing them on how to develop and maintain an emergency communications plan and build a disaster supplies kit. Other guide topics include evacuation, emergency public shelters, animals in disaster, and information specific to people with disabilities.

To broaden the usage of the *Are You Ready?* materials, a facilitator guide is also available for those interested in delivering the disaster preparedness content in a classroom or small group setting. The facilitator guide includes training modules for adults and older and younger children and contains a CD-ROM toolkit that includes customizable slides and hazard specific fact sheets. *Are You Ready?* is also a study guide for the independent study course *Are You Ready?* an In-Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness, IS-22. College credit for successful completion of the course is available through Frederick Community College in Frederick, Maryland.

The updated guide is available from the FEMA Web site in both English and Spanish. Download a copy at <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>. English-only copies are also available by mail from FEMA's Publications Warehouse at (800) 480-2520. Access the course at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIBeb/IS/is22.asp>.



(Continued from page 1)

Track has been designed as an introduction to software applications that you can use to better manage your duties as a floodplain administrator. The *No Adverse Impact* track has brought leading expert's, who are in-touch with Oklahoma's Floodplain Management Regulations, to provide insight and practical guidance on an array of topics. And for those who need to recharge their knowledge on the ever-evolving position of Floodplain Manager, *Floodplain 101* will be there for you.

This unique and scenic area offers excellent opportunities to relax and socialize with planned leisure activities including a train ride around Lake Altus, a horseshoe tournament, hiking and the ever popular conference hospitality suite. The resort is also home to the Quartz Mountain Golf Club, featuring an 18-hole, par 71 course that is open from dawn to dusk. It will be the site of the OFMA annual golf tournament, held on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> at an extra cost of \$35 for green fees and a cart.

All rooms have been reserved for OFMA and this conference, so let them know you are with the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association when you call. Rooms will go fast, so make your reservations early!

Find the Conference registration form and golf tournament flyer enclosed in this issue and stay tuned to [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org) and *The BFE* for itinerary updates. This will be one to remember. For more information on Quartz Mountain Resort visit <http://www.quartzmountainresort.com/> or call (877) 999-5567.





# 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 Engineers (USACE)**  
 www.swt.usace.army.mil  
**U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)**  
 ok.water.usgs.gov  
**Advanced Study Institute**  
 web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi  
**CLOMR/LOMR Forms:**  
 www.fema.gov/forms/forms.htm  
**EPA NPDES Phase II site:**  
 www.epa.gov/npdes/  
**SMRC Stormwater Mgr Resource Center:**  
 www.stormwatercenter.net  
**FEMA Official NFIP Site:**  
 www.floodsmart.gov  
**Link to: 44 CFR Ch. I (10-1-02 Edition)**  
 http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/  
 fr/waisidx\_02/44cfrv1\_02.html  
**Webmaster:** Tinna Song-Wallis  
 stsong@cox.net

## Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **EWRI 2005 Watershed Management Conference;** July 19-22, Williamsburg, Virginia. Contact: ASCE/2005 Watershed Management P.O. Box 79668, Baltimore, MD; 21279 (703)-295-6300
- **Floodplain 101;** July 26th, August 16th, October 12th, November 15th, and December 6th. OWRB 3800 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800; website [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org).
- **3rd National Floodproofing Conference;** September 12-16, 2005, Charleston, WV. Contact: Wallace A. Wilson email: walla-ceawilson@earthlink.net; website: [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org).
- **OFMA 15th Annual Conference;** September 19-21, 2005, Quartz Mountain State Park, Lone Wolf, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org).
- **H2Oklahoma Water Festival;** September 23, 2005, Sponsored by the Oklahoma Environmental Education Coordinating Committee; Contact Ellen Bussert (405) 702-7138
- **2005 Oklahoma Water Conference;** September 27-28, 2005, OSU-Tulsa North Hall 700 N. Greenwood, Tulsa, OK 74106; contact jennita@okstate.edu Sponsored by the Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute
- **2005 Governor's Water Conference;** November 1-2, 2005; Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City Sponsored by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board
- **ASFPM Annual Conference;** June 11-16, 2006; Albuquerque, NM. [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)
- **OFMA 16th Annual Conference;** September 18-20, 2006, University of Oklahoma Conference Center, Norman, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org).

### EPA Region VI MS4 Operators Conference Update

The 7th Annual EPA Region 6 MS4 Operator's Conference was held in Oklahoma City from June 13th through June 17th, 2005. This conference is held each year in a Phase I city within the EPA Region and brings participants from across the Region. With the MS4 program now mandated to Phase II communities, a generous amount of registrants attended the technical sessions and field trip offered at the conference to better grasp the program requirements as well as receive some helpful advice from the Phase I cities who have dealt with the Clean Water Act mandates for over a decade. Being a storm water issue, many of the conference attendees double as floodplain administrators. Conference presentations from the last years meeting are currently available from the EPA. If you were unable to attend this years conference, but would like to review conference presentations, they will be available soon at <http://www.epa.gov/region6/6wq/npdes/sw/ms4/conference.htm>.

Did you know that only 80% of Oklahoma's flood prone communities participate in the NFIP and only 3% of those NFIP communities participate in the Community Rating System. Although the program is voluntary, non-participation in the program has several ramifications: property owners are no longer eligible to receive flood insurance, federal disaster assistance after a flood is not available to the community and grants, loans or guarantees made by federal agencies such as the Small Business Administration, Federal Housing Administration and Veterans Administration are prohibited for acquisition or construction in identified areas.

**Comparisons of  
Region 6 Communities  
By State  
participating  
in the NFIP**

State	Percent in NFIP	Percent of NFIP in CRS
Oklahoma	80 %	3 %
Arkansas	93 %	5 %
Texas	79 %	4 %
Louisiana	90 %	12 %
New Mexico	75 %	12 %

## Floodplain 101/202 a Success

This Spring local and county floodplain administrators were offered a free chance at receiving accredited education at five convenient locations around the State.



Floodplain 101 is designed to update administrators on NFIP compliance requirements and provide assistance on guidance to floodplain development. As an additional incentive to each workshop, a new instructional

course designed to present more advanced issues was offered: Floodplain 202.

The OWRB, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers sponsored the five one-day workshops and each attendee was accredited 6 Continuing Education Credits.

Another round of workshops is scheduled to be held in Oklahoma City at the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. There will be one workshop each month starting in July through December with the exception of September. There is no registration fee for attending the workshops.

Each workshop attendee will receive the 6 Continuing Education Credits to be applied toward maintaining CFM status. Contact Rhonda Bowers at the OWRB at (405) 530-8800 to register or visit [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org) for dates and more information.

## 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.

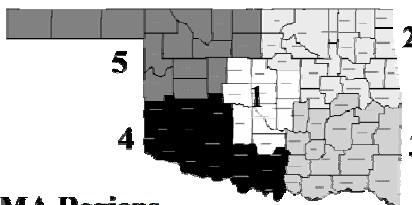
### Mission

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.

# An Invitation to Join OFMA

**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.



**OFMA Regions**

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

## OFMA Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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



New Member: ☐ Renewal: ☐

Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

Committees:

- ☐ Mitigation  
☐ Mapping and Engineering  
☐ Education/Legislative  
☐ Certification  
☐ Conference

### Dues Schedule:

First-Year dues are probated depending on the quarter during which you join. The fiscal year starts October 1<sup>st</sup> and ends September 30<sup>th</sup>.

	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Full Membership	\$ 30.00	\$ 22.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.50
Student Membership	15.00	11.25	7.50	3.75
Associate Membership	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
Agency Membership	50.00	37.50	25.00	12.50
(Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)				
Corporate Sponsor	100.00	75.00	50.00	25.00

## Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

**Mike Mathis, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator**

Although many might believe that the importance of floodplain management is diminished during dry periods, the opposite is actually true. For floodplain management professionals, every day is important, especially in permit administration. By ensuring that all proposed development is constructed in a flood-safe manner, flood damage will be significantly reduced in the event of a major flood.

If you are the official floodplain administrator of your community through ordinance, regulation, or resolution, please look for our upcoming notice concerning accreditation. As you know, Senate Bill 932 was recently enacted requiring all floodplain administrators to become accredited by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board each year. As a result, floodplain management training is now required annually.

To accommodate this training we are hosting five one-day Floodplain Management 101 Workshops at OWRB offices in Oklahoma City (3800 North Classen Blvd) on July 26, August 16, October 12, November 15, and December 6. Each workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. These workshops are designed for sharing information on the basic fundamentals of floodplain management. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rhonda Bowers at (405) 530-8800. Six Continuing Education Credits can be earned through successful completion of a workshop.

Remember, this training will ultimately benefit not only you, but your community through saving lives and ensuring that future development is designed and constructed to reduce flood damages to personal property. I look forward to seeing you at one of our OWRB workshops and in September at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual OFMA Conference at Quartz Mountain State Lodge. Keep dry!



Visit [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org) to see more posters from this years "Turn Around, Don't Drown" Poster Contest

## OFMA General Store

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 (S, M, L, X-L)	35.00
Briefcase	25.00
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'S CORPORATE PARTNERS



### Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma

Dusty Birdsong  
429 NE 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
405 524-3200

### Benham

Barend Meiling, PE, CFM  
One West Third St., Suite 100  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
918 492-1600

### Carter & Burgess, Inc.

Brian Bannister CFM  
10001 Broadway Extension,  
Suite 100  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
405 810-8254

### Cinnabar Service Company

Terry Young  
5121 South Wheeling Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
918 742-0082

### Crafton Tull and Assoc., Inc.

Phil Hagen  
235 North MacArthur Blvd  
Oklahoma City, OK 73127  
405 787-6270

### Cyntergy AEC

Robert Day, P.E.  
320 South Boston, 12th Floor  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
918 877-6000

### Dewberry Design

Andrew Cueto, P.E.  
1350 South Boulder, Suite 600  
Tulsa, OK 74119  
918 295-5263

### Eagle Consultants, Inc.

Satish Dasharathy  
2803 South Bryant Avenue  
Edmond, OK 73013  
405 844-3900

### R.D. Flanagan & Associates

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2745 East Skelly Dr., Suite 100  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
918 749-2696

### FTN Associates, Ltd.

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Little Rock, AR 72211  
501 225-7779

### Grand River Dam Authority

Robert W. Sullivan, Jr.  
P.O. Box 409  
Vinita, OK 74301-0409  
918 256-5545, x4467

### Greenhorne & Design

Vince DiCamillo CFM  
9001 Edmonston Road  
Greenbelt, MD 10770  
301 982-2898

### Guy Engineering

Julie Guy P.E., CFM  
10759 East Admiral Place  
Tulsa, OK 74116  
918 437-0282

### Harden and Associates Surveying

Jim Harden, LS  
2001 South 114th East Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74128  
918 234-4859

### Hydropower International Services; Inter-National

Consultancy, LLC  
Bill Smith P.E., CFM  
28508 W. 41st St.  
Mannford, OK 74044  
918 865-6977

### JGVE, Inc.

Donald D. Vick, PE  
124 NW 10th St., Suite 101  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103  
405 236-8313

### Meshek and Associates, Inc.

Janet K. Meshek, P.E., CFM  
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20 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sand Springs, OK 74063  
918 241-2803

### Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.

Bart Standley  
16225 Park Ten Place, #420  
Houston, TX 77084-5142  
281 579-4579

### WK Morris Consulting, LLC

Ken Morris, CFM  
510 Elmcrest Drive  
Norman, OK 73071  
405 530-8861

### Myers Engineering

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

### Oklahoma Municipal League

201 N.E. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-  
3199  
405 528-7515

### Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors

Burk Cornelius  
13905 Twin Ridge Road  
Edmond, OK 73034  
405 721-7222

### Poe & Associates

Shane Smith CFM  
525 Central Park Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
405 949-1962

### Sheridan Engineering

John F. (Jack) Sheridan  
P.O. Box 219  
Haskell, OK 74436  
918 482-3417

### Smith Roberts Baldischwiler, LLC

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25 S. Oklahoma Ave., Suite 400  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
405 840-7094

### Swift Water Resources Engineering, LLC

Mark S. Swift, P.E., CFM  
6 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, #205  
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### University of Oklahoma

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405 325-3600

### URS

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918 582-2552

### Utlely & Associates

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Suite D-1  
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### Vieux & Associates, Inc.

Jean Vieux  
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Norman, OK 73072  
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# The B.F.E.

July 2005

## Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

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Change Service Requested

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## Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2004-2005

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### Region 3 Representative:

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### Region 4 Representative:

Mr. Dennis Woommavovah  
City of Cache  
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