



# The B.F.E.\*

\* Base Flood Elevation

## OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 9

Summer 2007

Number 3

### OFMA's 17th Annual Fall Conference September 17-19 *It Will Rain Again, It Will Flood Again!*

How prophetic! Just when we were getting used to the drought! We are once again gearing up for the Annual Fall Conference, to be held in Tulsa this year. The location is the Downtown Doubletree Hotel. The Conference is an essential training forum for Floodplain Administrators around the State. This year's storms are clear reminders of why we do what we do.

This year's Annual Conference will kick-off Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> with the annual OFMA Golf Tournament and the pre-conference Board Meeting. If you haven't participated in the annual tournament, be sure and sign up this year. Competition is fierce but fun will be had by all! (see below).

The Conference is once again expected to be the premier event for floodplain administrators and advocates in Oklahoma. Attendees will be

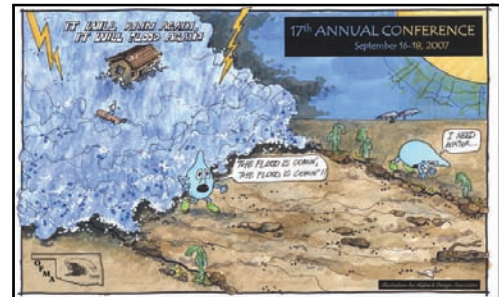
treated to three days of expert presentations, small-group discussions, training sessions and exhibits as well as opportunities for site seeing and socializing.

After the opening plenary session, featuring some local talent, a welcome from the Mayor's office and video of our Flood History, the Conference will offer Floodplain 101, as well as three training tracks, including:

- Basic Training for new Floodplain Administrators/City Council/County Commissioners/Floodplain Board
- Intermediate Training for Experienced Floodplain Administrators
- Special Issues for Engineering Consultants and Experienced Floodplain Administrators

Monday evening will feature the Vendor's Social at Elm Creek Detention Area and Centennial Park. Entertainment for the event will be the band "Iron Horse".

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**IT WILL RAIN AGAIN,  
IT WILL FLOOD AGAIN!**



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### 10th Annual OFMA Golf Tournament Sunday, September 16, 2007 at 12:00pm The Canyons at Black Jack Ridge - A.K.A. Sand Springs Municipal Golf Course 1801 N McKinley Ave Sand Springs, Oklahoma



This year's golf tournament will be a two person scramble. The cost is \$40 per person, including the golf and cart. The 18 -hole "Sand Springs" course at The Canyons At Blackjack Ridge facility in Sand Springs , Oklahoma features 6,113 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 71. The course rating is 69.5 and it has a slope rating of 125. The Canyons at Blackjack Ridge offers a challenging 18-hole golf course tucked away in the hills and canyons north of Sand Springs. Golfers and guests enjoy some of the most breathtaking views of the Tulsa skyline while golfing in lush, wooded surroundings. Prizes will be awarded! Contact Bill Robison at (918) 596-9475 or preferably by e-mail [brobison@ci.tulsa.ok.us](mailto:brobison@ci.tulsa.ok.us).

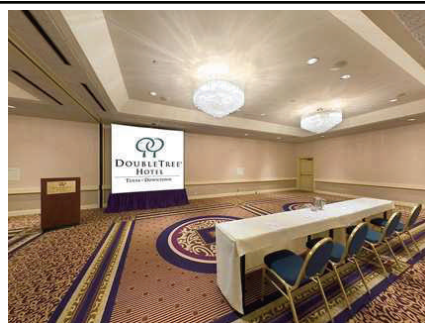
## Comments from the Chair

### July 2007 – Greetings

Last summer we had below normal rainfall and wildfires. This year, flash flood warnings and swollen rivers have dominated our weather reports. The much-needed moisture has also brought danger and misery to thousands of Oklahomans. Rescue workers have risked their own lives trying to save motorists trapped in vehicles. Families were evacuated from their homes. Businesses closed to clean up after storms. It's been a wet, messy summer. President Bush declared a major disaster after severe storms, tornadoes and flooding ravaged 17 Oklahoma counties in early May. The federal declaration is good news for local governments that will get funds to assist with the costs of clearing debris and rebuilding or repairing washed-out roads and bridges. A later declaration for Ottawa and Washington Counties included assistance for individuals, but such is not always the case. Individual homeowners who gamble on getting a FEMA handout instead of buying flood insurance usually find they are out of luck.

Statewide, only 12 percent of the homes in high risk flood zones carry flood insurance policies. This is true even though flood insurance is available for any property - either inside or outside the regulatory floodplain - in almost every Oklahoma community! By the way - why is fire insurance mandatory when the threat from flooding is greater than the threat of fire damage? Why don't more insurance agents advise their clients to buy flood insurance protection for their homes and businesses? It is ironic that in a conservative state such as ours where people prefer smaller government and praise rugged individualism, the majority expect the Feds to bale them out after a flood. It is so un-Oklahoman! Added to the citizens' shirking of responsibility is that of elected officials who fail to fund needed floodplain management work during dry times and that of local regulators who allow farmers to store big, round, hay bales in low-lying areas. These bales get carried downstream by floodwaters and they plug up bridge openings, causing damage to innocent people's properties. Some of the flooding that we have witnessed recently could have been prevented if channels had been cleared out and other infrastructure maintenance was performed when the creeks were dry, before it rained. Oklahoma weather is notoriously unpredictable, but as our annual conference theme this year warns us, "It will rain again. It will flood again." The drought will be upon us again soon, but the floods will come again. You can help make sure your community is ready next year by learning all you can at the conference September 16-19 at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This conference is for everyone interested in saving lives and property from flooding. Everyone means mayors, legislators, commissioners, insurance agents, real estate professionals, engineers, government employees, marketing specialists, homeowners, etc. Everyone means YOU! Go to [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org) NOW and register for the OFMA 17th Annual Conference. Then you can go back home and take responsibility for making your community a safer place in which to live. It is a thankless task. Not many people will notice that you prevented a flood, but everyone will know if you fail to take appropriate measures. That's when "Flood Warning" will scroll across the bottom of their TV screens.

Lauren Gibson Gilroy



Finger food and drinks will be available, as will a shuttle service provided to and from the Doubletree Hotel. A Hospitality Suite will be available after the Vendor Social at the Double Tree.

Tuesday will begin with a plenary session featuring the MapMod program, followed by three training tracks. The Business Meeting will be held following Regional Meetings to nominate OFMA officers. The afternoon session again includes Floodplain 101 and the three training tracks. Tuesday night the Awards Banquet will feature Roy Sedwick, CFM, the Executive Director of the Texas Floodplain Managers Association. The live entertainment will feature Ernestine Dillard, a home-grown celebrity in the music world. You may remember that Mrs. Dillard sang at the memorial service for the victims of the Murrah Building bombing.

The closing plenary session on Wednesday will include Duane Smith with the OWRB presenting the "Oklahoma Water Plan", Diane Calhoun, our ASFPM representative on the "National Program", Steve Fitzgerald, P.E. the Chief Engineer of the Harris County Flood Control District, speaking on "Water Policy – Flood Control" and Juli Matthews, the City of Miami's floodplain administrator giving us a summary of the 2007 Flood in Miami. And of course, don't forget the prize drawings!

Additional sessions are available Wednesday afternoon, including the Flood Smart Program Outreach Meeting for Flood Insurance Outreach Program Stakeholders from 12:30 to 2:30, and a class from 1:00 to 5:00 on the RSDE program, taught by Lonnie Ward from FEMA. Pre-approved applicants can also take the CFM test from 1:00 to 5:00.



**See you there!**

## Oklahoma Severe Storms, Flooding, and Tornadoes

Declared July 7, 2007

### Nearly \$3.2 Million in Disaster Aid in the Hands of Oklahomans

Release Date: July 18, 2007

Release Number: 1712-003

» [More Information on Oklahoma Severe Storms, Flooding, and Tornadoes](#)



OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. -- The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (OEM) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced (July 18) that nearly **\$3.2 million** in disaster assistance is in the hands of Oklahomans affected by the severe storms, flooding and tornadoes that prompted a major disaster declaration on July 7, 2007. Under FEMA's Individuals and Households Program, housing assistance reached **\$2,603,537** and a total of **\$624,410** was approved for Other Needs.

State Coordinating Officer Fred W. Liebe said, "This is only the beginning. We are encouraging residents to call FEMA's teleregistration line and apply for help. It's important to get recovery dollars into the hands of residents who have suffered from these storms."

To date, **1,748** individuals have applied for federal and state aid by calling the toll-free application number or by visiting the Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in Miami and Bartlesville. The centers provide answers to questions about the disaster aid process. Additional DRCs will be opened as they are needed.

Federal funds are available to eligible applicants under the Individuals and Households Program for rental assistance, home repair, and other essential needs. Low interest loans for disaster losses are provided by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for eligible home and business owners.

Low-interest disaster loans from SBA are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private non-profit organizations to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance or other sources.

SBA representatives at all of the DRCs meet with each resident or business owner to provide assistance in completing their disaster loan application, answer any questions about SBA's disaster loan program, and accept completed disaster loan applications. SBA assistance is also available at 1-800-659-2955 or [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).

Federal Coordinating Officer Philip E. Parr said, "FEMA is continuing to register individuals and business owners, inspect damage, process claims and deliver assistance quickly so the affected communities can get through the effects of the storms and return to functioning normally."

Those who had losses due to the disaster should register online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or call **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585** for the hearing- and speech-impaired. The toll-free numbers are available daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (local time) until further notice.

SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident, initiates mitigation



(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

activities and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA works closely with state and local emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, firefighters and other first responders. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=37971>

## **Oklahoma Severe Storms, Flooding, and Tornadoes**

### **Declared July 7, 2007**

### **President Declares Major Disaster For Oklahoma**

Release Date: June 7, 2007

Release Number: HQ-07-125

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced

federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of Oklahoma to supplement state and local recovery

efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding during the period of May 4-11, 2007.

FEMA Administrator David Paulison said the assistance was authorized under a major disaster declaration issued for the state by President Bush. The President's action makes federal funding available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding in Atoka, Beckham, Blaine, Caddo, Comanche, Dewey, Ellis, Greer, Kay,

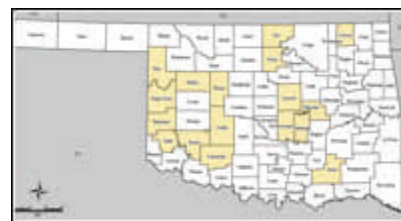
Kiowa, Lincoln, Noble, Nowata, Okfuskee, Pottawatomie, Roger Mills, and Seminole counties..

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Paulison named Philip E. Parr as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Parr said damage surveys have been scheduled and more counties and additional forms of assistance be designated after the assessments are completed.

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.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=36850>



**PLEASE JOIN US!**

*Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association*

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**



**“IT WILL RAIN AGAIN “  
“IT WILL FLOOD AGAIN”**

**Monday, September 17 – Wednesday September 19, 2007  
Downtown Doubletree Hotel - Tulsa, OK**

In times of drought, floodplain management is not the top priority in most municipal government, but it is the best time to perform routine maintenance on the creeks, drainage ditches, etc. because it will rain again, and it will flood again!

Our program this year will have four (4) concurrent tracks:

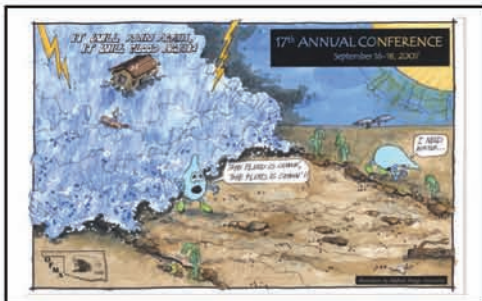
- ❖ Floodplain 101 Workshop – Sponsored and presented by OWRB
- ❖ Track 1 – Basic Training for New Floodplain Administrators/City Council, County Commissioners, Floodplain Board Members
- ❖ Track 2 – Intermediate Training for Experienced Floodplain Administrators, specifically oriented to your daily work efforts – CLOMR, LOMR, LOMA, Elevation Certificate Workshop, Permit Workshop, Development Coordination Workshop
- ❖ Track 3 – Special Issues for Engineering Consultants and Experienced Floodplain Administrators – GIS, HEC HMS, HEC RAS, Stormwater Quality Issues, Legal Issues, Etc.

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



Plan to attend, register early, reserve your hotel room(s), and participate.  
Anyone interested in submitting a presentation or technical paper, please contact:



W. B. “Bill” Smith, P.E., CFM, OFMA Vice Chair  
918-865-6977 Phone/Fax  
[hisinc@hotmail.com](mailto:hisinc@hotmail.com)

or

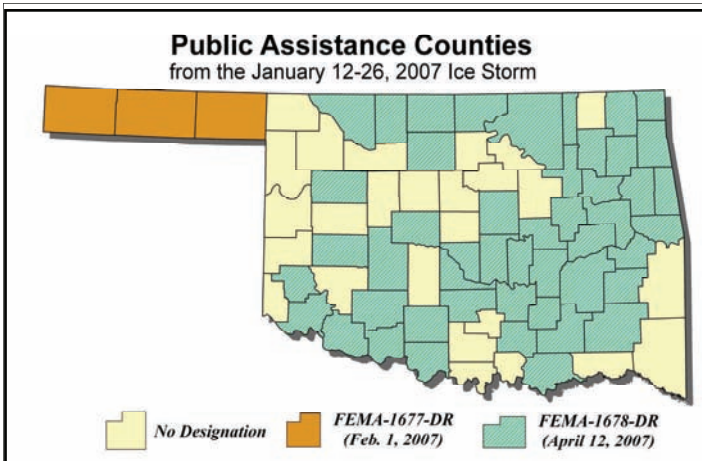
Philip Beauchamp, Region 4 Representative  
City of Altus  
(580) 481-2228  
[engineering@cityofaltus.org](mailto:engineering@cityofaltus.org)

OFMA has reserved rooms at Downtown Doubletree Hotel, 616 W 7<sup>th</sup> St., Tulsa, Oklahoma. Cost is just \$68 for Single, \$88 for Double plus tax per night.

**1-800-838-7914 or <[www.tulsadowntown.doubletree.com](http://www.tulsadowntown.doubletree.com)>**

Reservations due no later than August 15, 2007. Mention you are with Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.





## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Provides Funding Opportunities 1677 & 1678

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

Over \$21,000,000 in Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds are expected to be available to the state due to the large economic toll of DR 1677 and 1678. Most of the money has already been designated for potential sub-grant applicants. Notices of Intent (NOI's) to apply for funds were received by OEM until the end of May. All of the sub-grants require that the applying community has an approved All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, unless the grant request is for funds with which to prepare a plan. More HMGP funds will be available this year due to the recent Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding disaster declarations (1707 and 1712).

Additional information for FEMA mitigation grant activities, including project development and pre-award requirements, is available on the [Grant Applicant Resources](#) web page.

FEMA's mitigation grants, including HMGP, are provided to eligible Applicant States/Tribes/Territories that, in turn, provide sub-grants to local governments. The Applicant selects and prioritizes applications developed and submitted to them by local jurisdictions to submit to FEMA for grant funds. Prospective Sub-applicants should consult the official designated point of contact for their Applicant State/Tribe/Territory for further information regarding specific program and application requirements. Contact information for [FEMA Regional Offices](#) and [State Hazard Mitigation Officers](#) is available on the FEMA website.

Additional information for FEMA mitigation grant activities, including project development and pre-award requirements, is available on the [Grant Applicant Resources](#) web page at <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/resources/index.shtm>.



**Question:** Is it accurate to say that NFIP offers flood insurance coverage to homeowners for contents only (excluding basements)?

**Answer:** Yes, contents is available alone or can be purchased along with building coverage. In low risk flood zones (B, C & X), contents coverage is also available through the Preferred Risk Policy (subject to eligibility requirements).

**Question:** Do "contents only" policies count as one whole policy? If we could get more homeowners in a community to purchase contents only policies, would our percentage of policies increase OR do you only count policies that cover buildings?

**Answer:** Yes. A "contents only" policy is counted as a single policy on the statistical reports. More "contents only" policies should increase your community's percentage.

**From Amy Brandley, CFM, Canadian County Floodplain Administrator:**

Picture of Amy

*"The April-May 2007 newsletter for the Oklahoma City Association of Petroleum Landmen printed an article about Canadian County's floodplain board regulating oil and gas (see page 7 of the newsletter [Volume 4, Issue 4]). This was the article that alerted the OIPA [Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association] and set up the response to our June floodplain board meeting. The word is getting out! For the record, I don't advocate changing the regulations to require storage of fuel tanks outside the floodplain. I think it should be decided on a case by case basis."*

OKLAHOMA CITY ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM LANDMEN

## OCAPL Record

### **Floodplain Regulations on the Rise By Monica Smith and Scott St. John**

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was created by the federal government in 1968, offering nonstructural approaches to reduce flood damage. The NFIP provides communities with a mechanism for implementing sound floodplain management techniques. This approach makes affordable flood insurance available for citizens in participating communities that enact and adhere to sound regulations that guide development in floodplains. It is each county or community's decision on whether they participate in Floodplain Management. In Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is the coordinating state agency for Floodplain Management.

Unfortunately, the Floodplain Management Administrators are not put on notice of drilling activity within their respective community until it is published in the Journal Record or the OCC website. By this point, the operator is very close to commencing drilling activities. To close the gap, Floodplain Administrators are working with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to develop an early warning system that will alert County Floodplain Administrators to wells being drilled in the Floodplain. This may result in changes to the OCC Intent to Drill form and/or the approval process of the Intent to Drill.

Currently, 52 counties in Oklahoma participate in the NFIP with the Canadian County Floodplain Board considered the most stringent, having set a precedent for all other counties. Currently, they are considering a change in regulations that will affect operators in this county. The change would require any operator drilling a well in a floodplain within Canadian County to locate tanks outside the floodplain. This could increase location costs and maintenance.

Under the current regulations, operators submit a Development Permit for review by the Floodplain Board. The application includes best management practices, engineering plats and location maps. A major requirement of floodplain management is flood proofing. Flood proofing is a broad term and can encompass many mitigation techniques. However, whatever mitigation is proposed requires a professional engineer's approval. At the most recent Canadian County Floodplain Board meeting, a Development Permit was approved to anchor tanks down within the floodplain. However, board members were concerned with the possibility of erosion under the pad and the tanks being ruptured by large debris. The floodplain administrator suggested changing the county floodplain regulations to require all tanks to be located outside the floodplain. The board members were open to the suggestion. Whichever way the board decides, it is clear that regulations are becoming increasingly stringent.

- Reprinted with Permission from the Oklahoma City Association of Petroleum Landmen -

## Web Sites

**OFMA**      [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org)  
**ASFPM**    [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)  
**OWRB**    [www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us)  
**FEMA**    [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
**OEM**      [www.ok.gov/oem](http://www.ok.gov/oem)  
**Corps of Engineers (USACE)**  
[www.swt.usace.army.mil](http://www.swt.usace.army.mil)  
**U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)**  
[ok.water.usgs.gov](http://ok.water.usgs.gov)  
**Advanced Study Institute**  
[web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi](http://web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi)  
**CLOMR/LOMR Forms:**  
[www.fema.gov/fhm/frm\\_form.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/fhm/frm_form.shtm)  
**EPA NPDES Phase II site:**  
[www.epa.gov/npdes/](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/)  
**SMRC Stormwater Mgr Resource Center:**  
[www.stormwatercenter.net](http://www.stormwatercenter.net)  
**FEMA Official NFIP Site:**  
[www.floodsmart.gov](http://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](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/fr/waisidx_02/44cfrv1_02.html)  
**Webmaster:** Tinna Song-Wallis  
[stsong@cox.net](mailto:stsong@cox.net)

## Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **2007-2008 Floodplain Management 101 or Map Modernization , the Map Adoption Process, & Advanced Floodplain Management**  
 Floodplain Management Class Schedule. Apply online or Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800  
 August 15, 2007 - Norman OCCC  
 October 17, 2007 - Norman OCCC  
 November 14, 2007 - Norman OCCC  
 January 16, 2008 - Norman OCCC  
 February 20, 2008 - Norman OCCC  
 March 4-Woodward - High Plains Institute of Technology  
 March 6 McAlester - Eastern Oklahoma State College  
 March 11 Bartlesville - Tri County Technology Center  
 March 13 Lawton - Fairfield Inn And Suites  
 March 19, 2008 - Norman OCCC  
 April 9, 2008 - Norman OCCC  
 May 6, 2008 - Norman OCCC  
 May 8, 2008 - Norman OCCC
- **OML/MESO Annual Conference:** September 11-13, 2007; Tulsa - [www.oml.org](http://www.oml.org)
- **OFMA 17th Annual Conference:** September 16-19, 2007, Double Tree Hotel Downtown, Tulsa, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org).
- **Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference:** October 23-25.
- **Stronger Together: Annual Conference on Property Loss Reduction:** Nov. 8-9, 2007 . Sponsor: Institute for Business and Home Safety website [www.ibhs.org/congress](http://www.ibhs.org/congress)
- **FEMA's Annual National Flood Conference:** May 20-23, 2008; Chicago, Illinois. Sponsored by the NFIP; website: [www.fema.gov/business/nfip/natl\\_fdconf.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/natl_fdconf.shtm)
- **ASFPM 32nd Annual Conference:** May 18-23, 2008; Reno, NV. [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)

## 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.



## Oklahoma Teaches Us All A Few Tricks for Enforcing Substantial Damage

In early July, Oklahoma and Texas were absolutely hammered by floods. One of the worst hit areas was the City of Miami in Ottawa County, Oklahoma. Some seven hundred homes have been damaged in this small county, many of which suffered substantial damage with several being hit by over 88 inches of floodwater.

Unfortunately, several of these structures have flooded as many as 21 times over the past 50 years, and historically, local officials in the City of Miami and Ottawa County have allowed devastated flood victims to rebuild as soon as possible, disregarding all locally adopted National Flood Insurance requirements for safe and proper rebuilding of substantially damaged buildings.

This time, however, the new slate of officials in place had a different view about rebuilding after a flood, but they wanted to make sure that they were on solid ground to take strong action and break the cycle once and for all. The primary power was City Attorney Erik Johnson. He was very concerned about inverse condemnation and the taking issue if the city did not allow folks to rebuild and go back into their flooded homes. General Counsel for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Dean Couch, consulted with ASFPM legal experts and contacted Mr. Johnson early on in this process, explaining the role of the floodplain administrator and the justification for performing the substantial damage determinations.

The State NFIP Coordinator's Office sent OWRB employees Gavin Brady, State Coordinator, and long time floodplain manager, Ken Morris, to provide technical support and guidance to local officials. Brady and Morris immediately called FEMA Region 6 for support and help in obtaining trailers to house the disaster survivors while a safe rebuilding process takes place. Brady

*(Continued on page 10)*

## 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.

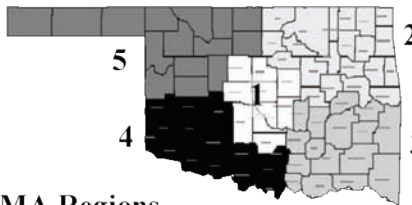
### ***Mission***

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

**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

## to Join

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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
- ☐ Research

Dues Schedule:

First-Year dues for joining OFMA are listed below. The fiscal year for membership starts October 1<sup>st</sup> and ends September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Full Membership	\$ 30.00
Student Membership	15.00
Associate Membership	20.00
Agency Membership	50.00
(Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)	
Corporate Sponsor	100.00



## Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Gavin Brady, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator

Will Rogers once said, "If you don't like the weather in Oklahoma, just wait a minute". I've experienced several floods in my 25 years working for the OWRB however never have I seen such dramatic spikes in the weather. The drought was reaching a critical stage in most areas of Oklahoma. Lakes, rivers and a majority of Oklahoma's farm ponds were drying up. Several Oklahoma communities and rural water districts were scrambling to find alternate drinking water sources. Several experts in weather forecasting continue to say this is just a wet period in a 10-year drought cycle, only time will prove the experts claims as accurate or not.

With June rainfall totals over 20 inches in some areas of the State, moderate to critical flooding is occurring throughout Oklahoma. As I write this article, floodwaters have overtopped the levees on the Verdigris River in Coffeyville, Kansas and South Coffeyville, Oklahoma. Water elevations along the Verdigris River are expected to reach record levels in the next few days. The Caney River in Bartlesville, Bird Creek in Skiatook, Cache Creek in Lawton, Cottonwood Creek in Guthrie, the N. Canadian River in Shawnee and many other flooding situations are occurring over the entire State.

Floodplain Administrators (FPA) should take this opportunity to evaluate their Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). One of the responsibilities a FPA has is to determine if a structure is substantially damaged. 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 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. If the structure is substantially damaged, and is located in the SFHA, the structure would be required to meet your community's elevation standard. Please contact the OWRB or FEMA and request the Residential Substantial Damage Estimate (RSDE) program to assist you in making this determination.

Ken Morris and I conducted our first "Map Modernization and Ordinance/Regulation Adoption" workshop in Purcell at the McClain County Courthouse. NFIP participating communities from McClain County attended the 2-hour workshop to learn what will be expected of them before their new Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) becomes effective in November. Once a Letter of Final Determination (LFD) has been sent to a community, they have 6 months to adopt an ordinance or regulation. Washington, Cleveland and Canadian County's should be the next communities to receive a LFD. Ken and I will conduct workshops for all communities receiving new FIRM's.

Now is the time to evaluate your Floodplain Management Program. Is the flood covering the SFHA's identified on your communities FIRM? Are the structures you required to elevate staying dry? Are your detention ponds working as designed? Is substantial damage occurring? Have you identified some high water marks for later reference? Now is the time!



*(Continued from page 9 - Annual Conference Summary)*

and Morris also appealed to ASFPM Headquarters in Madison to provide legal and technical support to bolster the State efforts to ensure proper and safe rebuilding. ASFPM asked Attorney, Floodplain Manager, and Michael Baker employee Ed Thomas to help with some quick talking points for state officials to use.

Thomas replied with the following suggestions:

A) Give people a simplified summary of the situation, explaining how the municipality will be at legal and Flood Program risk for failing to fully enforce their regulations unless proper and safe rebuilding is enforced.

B) Instead of helping folks, ignoring regulations and allowing them to rebuild in the same old flood-prone way would facilitate a time bomb of misery for the residents and multiple future generations.

C) Each and every municipality and individual who does not enforce regulations is putting themselves at individual and even personal risk for liability from future damages.

D) Failure to enforce floodplain regulations puts the entire community at risk for probation and/or suspension from the NFIP, thus endangering the entire recovery process.

E) A "Patchwork Quilt Approach" to funding would be an appropriate and beneficial way to rebuild this area safely and properly without undue hardship on the residents. (More information on the "Patchwork Quilt Approach" is available on the ASFPM web site at:

[http://www.floods.org/PDF/Post\\_Disaster\\_Reconstruction\\_Patchwork\\_Quilt\\_ET.pdf](http://www.floods.org/PDF/Post_Disaster_Reconstruction_Patchwork_Quilt_ET.pdf).)

Morris and Brady presented these materials to the City at a large Public Meeting, and the City was convinced to continue to enforce their existing floodplain regulations. Morris summed up this ongoing success story up by indicating that success was due to the leadership of local officials with the help of the OWRB. "I also believe the Patchwork Quilt document and Ed's words were overwhelmingly convincing," says Morris. **Oklahoma-OK!**

*From an article in ASFPM's "New and Views" by Ed Thomas, edited by Darla Whitley of OWRB*



## OFMA'S CORPORATE PARTNERS



### **Benham**

Barend Meiling, PE, CFM  
One West Third St., Suite 100  
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Chuck Mitchell  
220 East 8th Street  
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### **Crafton Tull & Assoc., Inc.**

Phil Hagen  
235 North MacArthur Blvd  
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Vince DiCamillo CFM  
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580 357-2022

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Keith Angier, P.E, CFM  
3033 NW 63rd Street, Ste. 250E  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
405 848-2803

### **Meshek and Associates, PLC**

Janet K. Meshek, P.E., CFM  
P.O. Box 636  
20 West 2nd Street, Suite 200  
Sand Springs, OK 74063  
918 241-2803

### **Myers Engineering**

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

### **Oklahoma Municipal League**

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

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

Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM  
2745 East Skelly Dr., Suite 100  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
918 749-2696

### **Sheridan Engineering**

John F. Sheridan, PhD, P.E.,  
CFM  
P.O. Box 219  
Haskell, OK 74436  
918 482-3417

### **Smith Roberts**

**Baldischwiler, LLC**  
Mathew Smith, P.E., CFM  
25 S. Oklahoma Ave., Suite 400  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
405 840-7094

### **Swift Water Resources Engineering, LLC**

Mark S. Swift, P.E., CFM  
9 East 4th Street, Ste. 301  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
918 582-1380

### **URS**

Michelle Barnett, P.E., CFM  
1437 South Boulder, Suite 660  
Tulsa, OK 74119  
918 582-2552

### **Utley & Associates**

Marc Utley, P.E.  
3500 South Boulevard,  
Suite D-1  
Edmond, OK 73013  
405 341-9555

### **Vieux & Associates, Inc.**

Jean Vieux, President  
350 David L Boren Blvd  
Suite 2500  
Norman, OK 73072  
405 325-1818

### **Watershed Concepts**

Richard Frithiof, P.E.  
811 Barton Springs Road,  
Suite 811  
Austin, TX 78704  
512 435-5367

### **WK Morris Consulting, LLC**

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





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## Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

PO Box 8101

Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

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## Summer 2007

### 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.

## Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2006-2007

### Ex Officio:

Mr. Gavin Brady  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
3800 North Classen Blvd  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
Phone: (405) 530-8800  
Fax: (405) 530-8900  
E-mail: gbrady@owrb.state.ok.us

### Chair:

Ms. Lauren Gibson Gilroy, CFM  
City of Tulsa  
470 West 23rd Street  
Tulsa, OK 74107  
Phone: (918) 596-2859  
Fax: (918) 596-1869  
E-mail: lgilroy@cityoftulsa.org

### Vice Chair:

Mr. Bill Smith, PE, CFM  
Hydropower International Services,  
Inter-National Consultancy, LLC  
28508 W. 41st St. S.  
Mannford, OK 74044  
Phone/Fax: (918) 865-6977  
Cell: (918) 625-2449  
E-mail: hisinc@hotmail.com

### Secretary:

Ms. Ellen Stevens, Ph.D, PE  
Painter & Associates  
1134 NW 33rd  
Oklahoma City, OK 74075  
Phone: (405) 488-0714  
Fax: (405) 488-0713  
E-mail: ellenphdpe@aol.com

### Treasurer:

Ms. Carolyn Schultz, CFM  
Corps of Engineers  
1645 S. 101st E. Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74128  
Phone: (918) 669-4919  
Fax: (918) 669-7546  
E-mail: carolyn.schultz@usace.army.mil

### Region 1 Representative:

Ms. Leslie Lewis, PE, CFM  
ODOT  
200 NE 21st Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
Phone: (405) 521-6500  
Fax: (405) 522-0134  
E-mail: llewis@odot.org

### Region 2 Representative:

Mr. Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM  
City of Broken Arrow  
220 S. 1st Street  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
Phone: (918) 259-2400 ext. 5241  
Fax: (918) 259-8453  
E-mail: jbigby@brokenarrowok.gov

### Region 3 Representative:

Mr. Mickey Douglas, CFM  
Seminole Nation Environmental Protection  
220 North Main Street  
Seminole, OK 74818  
Phone: (405) 382-5112  
Fax: (405) 382-3211  
E-mail: douglas\_mickey@sbcglobal.net

### Region 4 Representative:

Mr. Phillip Beauchamp, CFM  
City of Altus  
220 East Commerce  
Altus, OK 73521  
Phone: (580) 481-2228  
Fax: (580) 481-2203  
E-mail: engineering@cityofaltus.org

### Region 5 Representative:

Ms. Cindy Tubbs, CFM  
City of Enid  
PO Box 1768  
Enid, OK 73072  
Phone: (580) 234-0400  
Fax: (580) 234-8946  
E-mail: ctubbs@enid.org

### Past Chair:

Mr. Rex Hennen, CFM  
City of Shawnee  
PO Box 1448  
Shawnee, OK 74802-1448  
Phone: (405) 878-1506  
Fax: (405) 878-1587  
E-mail: rhennen@shawneekok.org

### Honorary Board Member:

Mr. Joe Remondini, PE, CFM  
Corps of Engineers  
1645 S. 101st E. Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74128  
Phone: (918) 669-7198  
Fax: (918) 669-7546  
E-mail: joseph.remondini@usace.army.mil

### Honorary Board Member:

Mr. Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM  
R.D. Flanagan & Associates  
2745 East Skelly Drive, Suite 100  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
Phone: (918) 749-2696  
Fax: (918) 749-2697  
E-mail: rdflanagan@rdflanagan.com

### Honorary Board Member:

Mr. Hank Elling  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
PO Box 886  
Lawton, OK 73502  
Phone: (580) 248-7762  
Fax: (580) 248-0737  
E-mail: hcelling@owrb.state.ok.us

### Interim Executive Director:

Mr. Ken Morris  
WK Morris Consulting, LLC  
510 Elmcrest Drive  
Norman, OK 73071  
Phone: (405) 530-8861  
Fax: (405) 530-8900  
E-mail: wkmorris@owrb.ok.gov

### BFE Editor:

Ms. Janet K. Meshek, PE, CFM  
Meshek & Associates, Inc.  
P.O. Box 636  
Sand Springs, OK 74063  
Phone: (918) 241-2803  
Fax: (918) 241-9245  
E-mail: jmeshek@meshekengr.com

The B.F.E. is published 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.