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 17th 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”.

(Continued on page 2)
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 bail 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 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.

Laureen 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 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.

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 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)
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.


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 may 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.

"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

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

OFMA has reserved rooms at Downtown Doubletree Hotel, 616 W 7th 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>

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

“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.”

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.
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.

Web Sites

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)
ok.water.usgs.gov

Advanced Study Institute
web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi

CLOMR/LORM Forms:
www.fema.gov/fhm/frm_form.shtml

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/wais
idx_02/44cfrv1_02.html

Webmaster: Tinna Song-Wallis
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

• 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.

• Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference: October 23-25.


• ASFPM 32nd Annual Conference: May 18-23, 2008; Reno, NV. www.floods.org
An Invitation to Join

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

OFMA Membership Application

Name: ____________________________
Title: ____________________________
Work Phone: _____________________
Fax: _____________________________
Company/Organization: _______________
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 1st and ends September 30th.

- 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

(Continued on page 10)
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)
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The B.F.E.

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Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2006-2007

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