



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 4

September 2002

Number 4



FEMA Requests Comments on a Proposed FY 2003 Competitive Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program

The President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 budget proposal includes \$300 million under the National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund to initiate a competitive grant program for pre-disaster mitigation. Consistent with funding available under the FY 2002 Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program, authorized by §203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act, eligible activities under a competitive grant program would include: risk assessments; State and local mitigation planning; the reinforcement of structures against seismic, wind, and other hazards; elevation, acquisition, or relocation of flood-prone structures; and minor flood control or drainage management projects. While Congress has not acted on the President's proposal, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is preparing to implement the program competitively if enacted by Congress. As part of a preliminary exploration of the issues, FEMA is seeking ideas on the process for implementing the grant program on a competitive basis.

FEMA requested written responses to questions regarding the design of a competitive grant program in a notice published in the Federal Register on August 6, 2002. FEMA is specifically looking for ideas and recommendations on ways that FEMA can structure a competitive grant process that encourages state and local governments to collaborate on natural hazards reduction built upon strong mitigation planning. In addition, FEMA is seeking suggestions regarding eligibility criteria and factors that should be considered when determining how much grant recipients should receive.

Written comments on the questions in the Federal Register Notice must be received by September 30, 2002, and may be mailed to Rules Docket Clerk, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street S.W., Washington, D.C., 20472; faxed to 202-646-4536; or e-mailed to rules@fema.gov.

Reprinted from <http://www.fema.gov/fima/planning7.shtml>

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REQUIRED HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

Communities that may want hazard mitigation funds from FEMA must have a Multi-Hazard Plan by November 30, 2003.

The 2000 Stafford Act mandates that communities must have a Hazard Mitigation Plan, approved by the State and FEMA, adopted before they can apply for future HMGP grants. HMGP grant funds, 75% federal, 25% local match, can be used to lessen the impacts of natural hazards, such as acquisition of Repetitive Loss Properties, etc.

Limited funding to aid in development of the plans may be available. For more information, contact: Connie Dill, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, (405) 949-8645.

Conference Dates:
Sept. 21—26, 2002

Conference Location:
Quartz Mountain Resort
Located 17 miles north of
Altus in the Wichita Moun-
tains of southwestern
Oklahoma. *Call ahead to
reserve your room.*
(580) 563-2424
(877) 999-5567, ext. 1
(toll free)

The conference will start with an OFMA Board meeting on Saturday and a Social on Sunday evening. The actual conference sessions will start Monday morning and end Wednesday afternoon. For those needing basic floodplain management training, the Floodplain 101 Workshop will be held on Wednesday and Thursday at no extra charge. The Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Exam will be offered to qualified candidates following the workshop.

Consider joining an OFMA committee:

- Flood Mapping
- Mitigation
- Public Education

Committee meetings will be held Monday morning.

Conference registration forms have been mailed to OFMA members. If you need additional information about OFMA or the conference contact Carolyn Schultz at (918) 669-4919 carolyn.schultz@usace.army.mil



Visit the OFMA website!
www.okflood.org

No Adverse Impact:

“Taking Ownership at the Local Level”

12th Annual Fall Conference
of the
Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Mark your calendars now for the 12th Annual OFMA Fall Conference at beautiful Quartz Mountain Resort! The conference is for

Floodplain Managers, Elected Officials, City Managers, Building Code Officers, City Staff, and Private Sector Professionals involved in flood-

plain management. You'll have an opportunity to learn about the latest floodplain management techniques and initiatives, get advanced training, and network with fellow professionals. You'll hear presentations from leaders in floodplain management as well as local

floodplain managers facing the same issues as you. Continuing education credits will be awarded to those who complete the conference. A tentative schedule of activities is shown below:

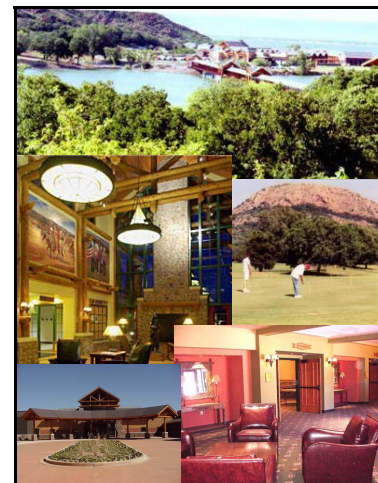
Choose from 3 concurrent sessions:

- hazard mitigation
- natural & beneficial uses
- mapping & technical issues

Tentative Schedule of Activities

Saturday, Sept. 21	OFMA Board meeting
Sunday, Sept. 22	free time/lodge activities/social
Monday, Sept. 23	committee meetings/conference begins/vendor cookout
Tuesday, Sept. 24	conference/business meeting/awards banquet
Wednesday, Sept. 25	conference ends/Floodplain 101 begins
Thursday, Sept. 26	Floodplain 101/CFM Exam

Beautiful Quartz Mountain Resort is located on sparkling Lake Altus in the heart of southwestern Oklahoma's rugged Wichita Mountains. The resort has numerous outdoor recreational opportunities to enjoy, including golfing, fishing, hiking, and rock climbing. They also offer water slides, paddleboats, miniature golf, sand dunes, swimming beaches, water skiing, and a Nature Center. The hiking trails wind through beautiful scenery, and guided hikes can be arranged with the lodge's activity coordinator. Check out the Quartz Mountain website: www.quartzmountainresort.com



Please complete this form and return to Ken Morris
or mail to OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

Board of Directors Nominations for 2002-2003

Each year, the general membership elects officers to serve on the Board for the next year. The positions listed below are up for election. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please fill in the information below. For more information about the election procedures or the duties of the Board, please refer to the OFMA website (www.okflood.org).

Vice Chair: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Regional Representatives are selected by the members in their region. Please refer to the map to determine which region you are in, and if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else (for your region only), please fill in the information below.

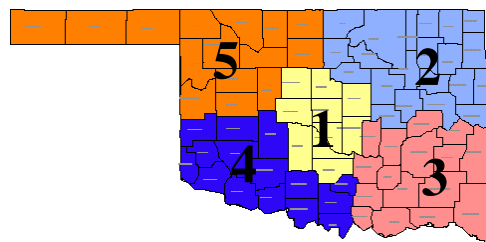
Region 1: _____

Region 2: _____

Region 3: _____

Region 4: _____

Region 5: _____



2001-2002 OFMA Board of Directors

Chair: Walter Stout, CFM; Vice Chair: Janet Meshek, CFM; Secretary: Lynne Stevenson, CFM; Treasurer: Carolyn Schultz, CFM; Executive Director: Kenneth Morris, CFM; Past Chair Anna Waggoner, CFM; Region 1 Representative: John Harrington, CFM; Region 2 Representative: Nancy Wade, CFM; Region 3 Representative: David Sprouse, CFM; Region 4 Representative: Tom Graham, CFM; Region 5 Representative: Jason Shiever; OFMA Webmaster: Hank Elling, CFM; Honorary Member: Joe Remondini, CFM

Name _____ Company/Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work phone _____ Email address _____

? I am not an OFMA member but would like to receive information about OFMA and a registration form for the Fall Conference.

? I plan to attend the OFMA Fall Conference.

? I am interested in taking the Floodplain 101 post-conference training workshop.

? I would like to take the Certified Floodplain Manager Exam.



Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association Unofficial 5th Annual Golf Tournament

Tee Times Start At

1:00 p.m., Sunday September 22, 2002

Join our 5th annual unofficial golf tournament. Come and play the Quartz Mountain Golf Course at Lone Wolf, OK. This is a friendly, fun tournament open to all golfers. Whether you play well, or have never played in a tournament, this event is for you.

\$30.00 fee per player includes green fees, cart, and tax. Please make your reservations for the golf tournament with Gavin Brady at (918) 581-2924 no later than September 13th at which time I will send additional information for those interested in participating.

For any questions, please contact Gavin Brady at (918) 581-2924 or by e-mail at: jgbrady@owrb.state.ok.us

12th Annual Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association Conference
NO ADVERSE IMPACT: TAKING OWNERSHIP AT THE LOCAL LEVEL
Agenda

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2002

3:00 pm-7:00 pm **OFMA Board Meeting/ Dinner** The Library

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2002

12:00 noon **5TH Annual Golf Tournament** "Gavin Brady (918) 581-2924"
 2:00 pm **Wichita Interpretative Trail-** *Sue Hokanson, Park Naturalist*
 12:00- 6:00 pm **Paddle Boats, Miniature Golf, fishing, nature center-on your own.**
 6:00 - 8:00 pm **Meet & Greet Social- 6 to 8 pm** Hospitality Suite

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2002

8:00 am-1:00 pm **Registration in Lobby**
 8:30 am **Vendor's Displays in Lobby** (throughout Conference)
 8:30 am **Conference Headquarters** The Library Room
 10:00 am-12:00 pm **OFMA Committee Meetings** (2 CECs)
 Certification, Legislative, Mapping & Engineering, Mitigation, Public Education/Information
 12:00 pm-1:00 pm **Lunch on your own**
PLENARY SESSION
 1:00 pm -2:45 pm **Opening Plenary Session (4 CECs)**
 Welcome and Conference Overview - Walter Stout, CFM, City of Pryor, Ken Morris, CFM, OWRB
 Roger Lively, Greer County Commissioner
 Representative Purcy Walker
 Senator Robert M. Kerr
 Committee Reports - Rex Hennen, Bob Patton, Andy Kincaid, Walt Allen
 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm **BREAK**
 3:15 pm - 4:50 pm **Opening Plenary Session (continued)**
 Duane Smith, Oklahoma Water Resources Board
 Dean Couch, OWRB
 Randal D. Homberg, Attorney
 Ken Morris, CFM, OWRB, Certification Program
 Joe Remondini, PE, CFM, USACE
 Exhibitor's Announcement
 5:00 pm **Adjourn**
 6:30 **6th Annual Vendor's Cookout at Shelter No. 1**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2002

7:00 am - 9:30 am **Business/Election Breakfast** (1.5 CECs)
 10:00 am - 5:00 am **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
 SESSION 1 - HAZARD MITIGATION (6.5 CECs)
 10:00am - 10:50 am **Hazard Mitigation:** *Ron Flanagan, CFM, R.D. Flanagan & Associates, Janet Meshek, PE, CFM and Meredith Reeder, Meshek & Associates*
 10:55-11:20 **How to Enforce Your Local Ordinance:** *Marsha Blair, CFM, City Manager, Slaughterville*
 11:25-11:50 **Hazard Mitigation -** *Connie Dill, OCDEM*
 12:00-1:00 **Luncheon Keynote Address:** *Larry A. Larson, PE, CFM, Executive Director ASFPM, Inc. -"No Adverse Impact & Chapter Significance-How OFMA Fits in ASFPM"*
 1:40-2:05 **RSDE** – *Lonnie Ward, FEMA*
 2:10-2:35 **Local Hazard Mitigation Challenges/Successes:** *Doug Rhett, Bartlesville*
 2:40-3:05 **Local Hazard Mitigation Challenges/Successes:** *T. J. Davis, CFM, Sand Springs*
 3:05-3:30 **Break**
 3:30-3:55 **Local Hazard Mitigation Challenges/Successes:** *Jack Carden, Apache*
 4:00-4:25 **Local Hazard Mitigation Challenges/Successes:** *Bob Bigham, CFM, Lawton*
 4:30-4:55 **Local Hazard Mitigation Challenges/Successes:** *C. M. Linn, CFM, SWODA*
 SESSION 2 - NATURAL AND BENEFICIAL USES OF THE FLOODPLAIN (6.5 CECs)
 10:00-10:25 **Water Quality -** *Derek Smithee, OWRB*
 10:30-10:55 **Floodplain Ecology** – *Ron Suttles, ODWC*

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

11:00-11:25 **Wetland Restoration** – Chris Stoner, PE, NRCS, Stillwater
 11:30-11:55 **Fluvial Morphology** - Russ Dutnell, OU
 12:00-1:00 **Luncheon Speaker**
 1:10-1:35 **CRS** - Ron Flanagan, CFM, R. D. Flanagan & Associates
 1:40-2:05 **Floodplain Policy** - Ken Morris, CFM, OWRB
 2:10-2:35 **WET Program for Schools** - Andy Kincaid
 2:40-3:00 **Break**
 3:00-3:25 **NPDES PHASE II** – John Harrington, CFM, ACOG
 3:25-4:30 **Greenway Development** – Mike Southard, President, OKAPA
 4:30-5:00 **Corps of Engineers - Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Mitigation Programs** – Rich Billinski, USACE
SESSION 3 - FLOODPLAIN MAPPING (6.5 CECs)
 10:00-10:50 **CLOMR'S and LOMR'S** – Lloyd A. Hake, FEMA, Joe Martinenza, PE and Roberto Ramirez, PBS&J
 11:00-11:25 **Mapping/CPP/MNUSS** – Jim Orwat, FEMA Region VI
 11:30-11:55 **Flood Insurance/CRS** – Dorothy Martinez, NFIP
 12:00-1:00 **Luncheon Speaker**
 1:10-1:35 **Basic Floodplain Modeling** – Robert Tortorelli, CFM, USGS
 1:40-2:05 **Future Conditions Modeling** – Jim Orwat, FEMA Region VI
 2:10-2:35 **GIS** - Jim Leach, USACE
 2:40-3:05 **GIS Data Repository** – Jim Leach, USACE
 3:05-3:25 **Break**
 3:30-3:55 **Survey Datum Issues** - Janet Meshek, PE, CFM, Meshek & Associates, Jim Harden, PLS, Harden & Associates
 4:00-4:25 **Technical Bulletin 10 – “Reasonably Safe from Flooding”** – John Ivey, Halff & Associates
 4:30-5:00 **Manufactured Home Installation** – Walter Stout, CFM, City of Pryor
EVENING PROGRAM
 6:30-8:30 **OFMA Awards Banquet/Entertainment** - Janet Meshek, PE, CFM, Vice Chair & The Native American Dancers

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

7:00 - 8:30 am **Past Chairs' Breakfast** Donnie Blanlot
 8:30 am-noon **CLOSING PLENARY SESSION (4 CECs)**
 Walter Stout, Chair
 Frank Pagano, Director Federal Insurance & Mitigation, Region VI
 Albert Ashwood, Director ODEM
 Carroll Fisher, Insurance Commissioner
"Passing The Gavel & What's Next" Janet Meshek, Chair
 "Introduction of the New OFMA Board of Directors"
 12:00 pm **Adjourn Conference**
 12:00 -12:30 pm **Board of Directors Meeting – Library Room**
 12:00 – 1:00 pm **Lunch on your own** (Floodplain 101 attendees)

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATORS' 101 WORKSHOP AGENDA (6 CECs)

1:30 pm **Corps of Engineers Programs** - USACE
 2:30 pm **Your Flood Ordinance** - FEMA
 3:30 pm **Hazard Mitigation** - ODCM
 4:30 pm **Adjourn**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2002

8:00 am **The Permit Application Process** - OWRB
 9:00 am **How To Determine the BFE** - OWRB
 10:00 am **Comments From NFIP State Coordinator & Exercises** - OWRB
 11:00 am **Adjourn**
 11:00 am **Lunch on Your Own**
 1:00 pm **Certified Floodplain Manager's Exam Proctored** - OWRB (Only for Pre-approved candidates)

Note: www.quartzmountainresort.com contains information about the lodge and nearby attractions.

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

ODCEM 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

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

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- **Sept. 18-19, 2002, OEMA Annual Conference.** Tulsa Hilton Southern Hills. Contact: Dale Magnin (405) 521-2481.
 - **Sept. 17-20, 2002, OML Annual Conference.** Contact Jimi Layman, 405-528-7515 or website www.oml.org.
 - **Sept. 19, 2002, OKAPA Annual Conference.** Doubletree Hotel, Downtown Tulsa. For more information call Mike Southard, 405-273-1250 or website www.okplanning.org. Held in conjunction with the OML conference.
 - **Sep 23-25, 2002: OFMA Annual Fall Conference.** Quartz Mountain Resort, Lone Wolf, OK; Cost: \$150. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org
 - **Sept 25-26, 2002, OWRB Floodplain 101 Workshop.** Quartz Mountain Resort, Lone Wolf, OK; No Cost. For more information, call Rhonda Kouba at 405-530-8800.
 - **October 6-9, 2002, AFMA Spring Conference.** Fort Smith, Arkansas. Contact: Jason Donham, 501-682-3907.
 - **October 9, 2002, OWRB Governor's Water Conference.** Tulsa, OK. For more information call Mary Nell Brueggen, 405-530-8800.
 - **January 6-10, 2003, Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP, OWRB.** Location: Norman, OK. For more information call Rhonda Kouba, 405-530-8800.
 - **March 5-8, 2003, OSLS Spring Conference.** Contact David Anderson, 405-721-7277.
 - **OWRB May workshops, May 6, 2003, Norman; May 8, Tulsa; May 20, Woodward; May 22, Lawton; May 27, McAlester.** For more information call Rhonda Kouba, 405-530-8800.
 - **May 11-16, 2003, Twenty-Seventh Annual Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers;** St. Louis, MO. Contact: ASFPM Executive Office, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713-3120; 608-274-0123; fax: 608-274-0696; e-mail: asfpm@floods.org; website: www.floods.org.
 - **May 7, 2003, Agents/Lenders Workshop,** Muskogee.*
 - **May 8, 2003, Agents/Lenders Workshop,** Bartlesville.*
 - **May 27-30, 2003, NFIP Annual Conference,** San Francisco, CA.*
- * For additional information contact Diana Herrera at 281-829-6880.

FLOOD MITIGATION PLANS AREN'T EXPECTED SOON

By SUSAN HYLTON World Staff Writer
8/16/2002

Flood mitigation recommendations are still at least a year away as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues a comprehensive study of the Tulsa County watershed. Tulsa County and municipal officials gathered at the Corps' headquarters Wednesday to hear the latest on flood mitigation plans. By June 2004, the Corps will outline its recommendations resulting from the study as part of the "4 to Fix the County" flood mitigation effort.

Recommendations for the northern half of the county including the Bird Creek area will come sooner, however -- in about a year. A hydrology study is still under way and digital photographs remain to be completed of the southern and western portions of the county.

Jim Leach of the Corps recommended the purchase of a geographical informational system or GIS, a relatively new technology described as superior to other mapping systems. Much of the flood focus for now remains on technological abilities. The GIS program can process various information in the floodplain including buildings, land use, transportation routes and population.

"The GIS will be what the PC was to city offices," Leach said. The automated system will allow engineers to evaluate better the effect a detention system would have on a floodplain. The technology is touted to

(Continued on page 7)

☐ ***Please check here if you plan to attend***

Return to: OWRB
3800 N. Classen
Okla. City, OK 73118

**OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD
Floodplain Administrators' 101 Workshop
Agenda**

(OFMA Post Conference Agenda 2002)

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September 25, 2002

1:30 pm	Corps of Engineers Programs	USACE
2:30 pm	Your Flood Ordinance	FEMA
3:30 pm	Hazard Mitigation	ODCEM
4:30 pm	Adjourn for the day	

September 26, 2002

8:00 am	The Permit Application Process	OWRB
9:00 am	How To Determine the BFE	OWRB
10:00 am	Comments From NFIP State Coordinator & Exercises	OWRB
11:00 am	Adjourn	
11:00 am	Lunch on Your Own	
1:00 pm	Certified Floodplain Manager's Exam Proctored*	OWRB

=====

*Only for Pre-approved candidates.

This training is offered to local floodplain managers at no cost. The funds for this training are provided in part through the CAP-SSSE agreement OWRB has with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Also, this training is made possible with assistance from FEMA, ODCEM, USACE, OFMA and the OWRB. These agencies and individuals that comprise the Oklahoma Training Team are greatly appreciated.

(Continued from page 6)

work hand-in-hand with emergency management operations including police and fire, as well as homeland security. Leach urged communities in the county as well as the Indian Nations Council of Governments to share information and develop a common computer-sharing system.

A second study conducted by the Corps on the Arkansas River basin to show the effects development would have upstream and downstream will also tie in with the city's and county's vision plans, Tulsa County Commissioner Bob Dick said. He credited Commissioner Wilbert Collins with pushing funds in the 4 to Fix the County plan to study Bird Creek. Kevin Anderson, a commercial real estate consultant, said taking areas around Bird Creek out of the floodplain would promote tremendous opportunities for economic development. Corps engineer Joe Remondini said residents have identified problem areas that have been pinpointed and will be included on the new mapping system.

More than \$6 million was set aside for flood mitigation in the 4 to Fix the County initiative. The Corps was paid roughly \$2.3 million to conduct the study. About \$1 million is being spent on aerial digital photographs. Remaining monies will cover small projects, Dick said. Plans could call for detention ponds, land acquisitions, flood-proofing, ecosystem restoration and flood reduction. "This is not a quick fix deal," Dick said.

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

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

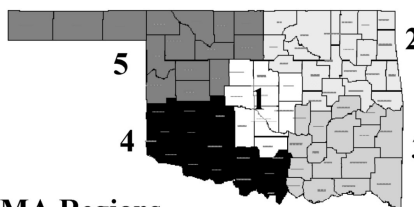
Mission

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

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

An Invitation to Join OFMA

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association is a non-profit organization primarily dedicated to 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 ___ Public Info/Education

___ Certification ___ Mapping & Engineering

___ Legislative

Dues Schedule:

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

	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



Phase II Stormwater – The Next NPDES Program

by John Harrington, CFM, ACOG

Maybe your boss has already talked to about it. Maybe you have already heard about it – and hoped it would go away. But like it or not, floodplain managers in the smaller towns and cities will probably have another hat to wear this time next year – simply because the floodplain manager will be commonly perceived as having the best set of skills to tackle the new job. And what a job it will be!!

A new set of federal regulations will start their influence come next March. Known as the Phase II stormwater program, these rules are designed to protect the quality of the waterbodies in our cities and towns. A similar, but tougher, set of regulations were put into place in larger cities by the Environmental Protection Agency over ten years ago; now the smaller towns and cities must follow suit and show that water quality is maintained inside their jurisdiction as well.

The floodplain manager will be the person most likely tapped for this job. Familiarity with the regulatory universe and a knowledge of the geographical location of creeks and floodways will make him or her the appropriate employee to take up this new set of responsibilities. Although the floodplain manager is more likely to know plenty about storm water *quantity*, the Phase II regulations will now acquaint him with the other side of the coin: storm water *quality*.

Why Phase II?

Since the passage of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the quality of our Nation's waters has improved dramatically. Despite this progress, however, degraded waterbodies still exist. According to the 1996 National Water Quality Inventory (Inventory), a biennial summary of State surveys of water quality, approximately 40 percent of surveyed U.S. waterbodies are still impaired by pollution and do not meet water quality standards.

A leading source of this impairment is polluted runoff. In fact, according to the Inventory, 13 percent of impaired rivers, 21 percent of impaired lake acres and 45 percent of impaired estuaries are affected by urban/suburban storm water runoff and 6 percent of impaired rivers, 11 percent of impaired lake acres and 11 percent of impaired estuaries are affected by construction site discharges.

Phase I of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) storm water program was promulgated in 1990 under the CWA. Phase I relies on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage to address storm water runoff from: (1) "medium" and "large" Municipal Separate Stem Systems (MS4s) generally serving populations of 100,000 or greater, (2) construction activity disturbing 5 acres of land or greater, and (3) ten categories of industrial activity.

The Storm Water Phase II Final Rule is the next step in EPA's effort to preserve, protect, and improve the Nation's water resources from polluted storm water runoff. The Phase II program expands the Phase I program by requiring additional operators of MS4s in urbanized areas and operators of small construction sites, through the use of NPDES permits, to implement programs and practices to control polluted storm water runoff.

Phase II is intended to further reduce adverse impacts to water quality and aquatic habitat by instituting the use of controls on the unregulated sources of storm water discharges that have the greatest likelihood of causing continued environmental degradation. Concentrated development in urbanized areas substantially increases impervious surfaces, such as city streets, driveways, parking lots, and sidewalks, on which pollutants from concentrated human activities settle and remain until a storm event washes them into nearby storm drains.

Common pollutants include pesticides, fertilizers, oils, salt, litter and other debris, and sediment. Another concern is the possible illicit connections of sanitary sewers, which can result in fecal coliform bacteria entering the storm sewer system. Storm water runoff picks up and transports these and other harmful pollutants then discharges them – untreated – to waterways via storm sewer systems.

When left uncontrolled, these discharges can result in fish kills, the destruction of spawning and wildlife habitats, a loss in aesthetic value, and contamination of drinking water supplies and recreational waterways that can threaten public health.

Education, Education, Education.....

The Phase II stormwater regulations also have a strong educational component to them. Despite 30 years of Earth Days and environmental education, the public is still unaware of the impacts that daily urban living have on the environment. To help launch the Rivers 2001 program, the National Geographic Society commissioned a poll that tested America's "River IQ." Conducted by Penn, Schoen and Berland, the poll revealed that 98 percent of respondents felt protecting and conserving rivers was an important environmental priority. Yet, most Americans lacked basic knowledge about rivers, and failed to appreciate how their own behaviors negatively affect rivers.

A key finding of the study was the respondents' lack of awareness that we are all part of a larger system, interconnected to rivers through watersheds, and that individual and collective actions have a profound effect on the health of rivers. Some specific findings:

Only one in seven (15 percent) polled knew that the greatest source of river pollution is people's actions in the watershed. Nearly three times as many (44 percent) incorrectly identified industrial sources as the biggest culprit in polluting waterways. Only one-third (35 percent) correctly identified land use and urban sprawl as the most serious threat to watersheds. A positive finding was that nearly one in five respondents (19 percent) was very interested in becoming an active river advocate and two-thirds (65 percent) said they were interested in becoming more personally involved in conserving and protecting rivers. Barriers to becoming involved included a perceived lack of respondents' time (53 percent), lack of information about how they can help (35 percent), and lack of awareness about the scope of the problem or the impact they could have (34 percent).

The poll found respondents are most motivated to get involved when it becomes a family-oriented project. Two-thirds of respondents—and almost three-quarters of adults with kids at home—said a reason to get involved with river conservation is that such programs provide excellent educational opportunities for children and are a good way to instill important values.

Other findings included:

Although all Americans live in a watershed—an area through which all surface and underground water flows to a river or other body of water—only slightly more than half the respondents (56 percent) could correctly define the term and nearly two-thirds (65 percent) believed that a watershed and a wetland are the same thing.

Only 36 percent of respondents knew that non-point source pollution—contamination from many sources that is carried by runoff—is the largest source of water quality problems for rivers and the major reason that 40 percent of our rivers may not meet water quality standards for fishing or swimming. In fact, more than 80 percent of those polled grossly underestimated the extent of environmental damage that U.S. rivers have endured; the perception: just 16 percent of waterways are degraded.

Nearly 9 out of 10 respondents (86 percent) were unfamiliar with the term “non-point source pollution,” and few, if any, understood that people contribute directly to it. For example, 59 percent did not know that runoff from farms causes more river pollution than industrial sources, and 42 percent incorrectly thought water that goes down storm drains is treated at water treatment plants.

When asked how large an oil slick is created by dumping a quart of oil down a storm drain, three-quarters severely underestimated the extent of the spill, with almost half saying 100 feet or less when the actual figure is two acres (87,120 square feet).

Two-thirds were unaware that water is a non-renewable resource, and most underestimated the amount of water it takes to perform simple household tasks. For instance, it takes 15 gallons to run a dishwasher (average estimate was 9) and 30 gallons to use a washing machine (average estimate was 15).

“What we need to get across is that everyone's small actions have greater impacts downstream,” noted Rebecca R. Wodder, president of American Rivers, a leading national river conservation group and a member of the River Council. “We're connected by rivers to each other, to our proud history and to the people who will enjoy these rivers long after we're gone.”

Next Month: Phase II Stormwater: The Six Steps

Notes from the Executive Director

Hello, the summer months have passed quickly this year and the OFMA Annual Conference is just around the corner. We had a very mild summer in Oklahoma City as not one day exceeded 100. We have had a very good summer and hope you have had the same. Let me bring you up to date on a few initiatives OFMA leadership has been working on. Chairman Walter Stout, Andy Kincaid and I met with Danny George, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Municipal League, on August 6 to discuss mandating annual training for the local floodplain manager. The meeting proved very productive. We are scheduled to appear before the OML Legislative Committee September 4 to justify this. On August 12, 13 & 14, Lonnie Ward, Gavin Brady and I did a community assistance visit (CAV) to the City of Ponca City. About 20 homeowners experienced a flood event on June 12 and some experienced two feet of water in their homes. Community officials welcomed our visit and are working diligently to address this localized drainage problem. Also, they are working with the Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management to develop an all hazards mitigation plan. I thank Ponca officials for their hospitality during this visit. The OFMA Board had a marathon meeting and working lunch on August 15 at the OWRB's Oklahoma City office. The meeting proved very productive. Board members in attendance included; Chair-



man Walter Stout, Vice Chair Janet Meshek, Secretary Lynne Stevenson, Treasurer Carolyn Schultz, Region 1 Representative John Harrington, Region 2 Rep. Nancy Wade, Region 3 Rep. Thomas Graham, Andy Kincaid, Chairman of the Public Information and Education Committee and I. Key meeting topics included the mandatory training initiative, the State of Oklahoma Mapping Strategy, Project WET Training and annual conference details/changes. The conference is shaping up very nicely. Janet is doing a superb job and I want to sincerely thank Janet and her staff for all their hard work. Mark your calendar for this great training opportunity. Please remember education is the key to flood loss reduction and the protection of the natural floodplain.

Speaking of education, I want to encourage new floodplain managers to attend the September 25 & 26, 2002, OWRB Floodplain Managers Workshop at Quartz Mountain Lodge immediately following the OFMA Annual Conference. There is no charge to attend this workshop and an agenda is found in this newsletter. Each student attending this training will earn 6 Continuing Education Credits and those that are pre-approved can take the Certified Floodplain Managers Exam at its conclusion. If you have any questions, please give me a call. Also, for floodplain managers that need a refresher course this workshop serves that purpose well. See you at Quartz Mountain Lodge in September.

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