



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 10

Summer 2008

Number 3

OFMA's 18th Annual Fall Conference

September 21st-24th, 2008

Oklahoma Floods—How Prepared Can We Be In A Changing Climate

After a significant year of flooding, not just in Oklahoma but across the nation, many communities are more aware of the power of water and the volatile effects humans create in the environment. With flooding disasters on the rise, public awareness is at an all-time high. While this increased awareness in flooding

hazards is a significant step forward for floodplain managers and their ability to protect life and property—many communities are not aware the role the predicted change in climate conditions will have upon them. OFMA's 18th Annual Conference will deal with this very dramatic subject and prepare attendees for the arduous and complex challenges to come.

The 18th Annual Fall Conference will be held in Midwest City, Oklahoma, at the Reed Conference Center. Attendees are invited to stay at the Sheraton Midwest City Hotel located next to the conference location. 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.

The Annual Conference will kick-off Sunday, September 21st with the annual

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Flood Zone—Iowa Floods, June 2008

The flooding disasters which struck Midwest states in early June of 2008 caused incomprehensible damage, especially in Iowa. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials say they have received more than 35,000 applicants for federal aid and \$288.5 million already has been authorized in the state of Iowa alone.

The federal Housing and Urban Development agency has released \$85

million in housing aid to Iowa. On August 6th the Associated Press reported that Iowa Gov. Chet Culver advised that Iowa's overall financial losses from flooding could push as high as \$10 billion.



(AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

Culver also says he has invited House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and other federal leaders to come to Iowa to view damage first hand in Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and other areas damaged by flooding.

(Continued on page 2)

To Much Water, To Little Water

Comments from the Chair

It seems that we always have such extremes in Oklahoma. May – July 2007 and May – July 2008 were extreme periods of intense rainfalls that were even a little extreme for Oklahoma. Now as August sets in, as it did last year, we are in very high temperatures and very little rain. The creeks are dry, the ground is cracking, and I hear people praying for rain. And, the thought of floodplain management is out the window – except for those who work in the business. People want roads fixed, water line breaks fixed, etc. etc. It is a very tough job to keep floodplain management in the forefront of our communities when we are so hot and dry. My hat is off to the floodplain managers that do maintenance during the summer months to help prevent flooding in the spring and fall. It is a good routine and highly recommended.

Map Modernization is coming to a close and the remaining FIRM Panels and FIS updated reports and, in some cases, new models will become effective soon. To those who are going through the Map Mod process, don't forget the necessary steps to adopt your new maps – Ken Morris and Gavin Brady will help you remember. As a hydrologist and hydraulic engineer, I believe that there is still a lot of work to be done to improve the process and there are still many computer models that need to be updated to support the new maps. OFMA

will continue to remind FEMA that a pretty picture, without the supporting data for that picture, is not worth much.

I also want to remind you of our upcoming Annual Conference on September 21-24, 2008, in Oklahoma City. There are many who have not yet registered or reserved their rooms and time is running short. Clark Williams, Vice Chair and Conference Chair has worked very hard to assemble a wonderful program about Climate Change and the long term effects on hydrology, hydraulics and floodplain management. Don't miss out on an opportunity to learn something new. Our 2010 National Conference planning is also proceeding. We plan to meet with ASFPM in October, with our committee chairs, to get into the "nuts and bolts" of planning in preparation for about 3000 people from all over the USA and beyond to descend on our state.

This will be the last article that I write as Chair of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association. It seems that though a year is still 365 days long, it goes a lot faster now than it used to when I was younger. I want to express my appreciation to all of the OFMA Board, OFMA Committee Chairs, and our members for the support during my tenure as your Chair. Not everything that I had planned to do was accomplished, and many things I had not planned to do were accomplished, so I believe it balanced out. I will continue to develop and implement the Disaster



Response Team (DRT) program in Oklahoma, I will continue to coordinate the OFMA Training Cadre with new programs for training, I will co-chair the 2010 ASFPM National Conference, and I will continue to assist OFMA in whatever other activities I am requested. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this great association of professionals.

See you in September at the Annual Conference!

OFMA Chair

W. B. "Bill" Smith, P.E., CFM

(Continued from page 1) *Flood Zone*

Those trips would be aimed at speeding up federal recovery help

Culver says Iowa farmers face huge financial damage, while housing losses total \$1 billion. Public infrastructure damage is at least \$800 million, and private businesses are also feeling the pinch, with Alliant Energy at \$225 million and Quaker Oats topping \$200 million.

"You put all that together -- I've continued to say were talking about as much as \$10 billion in private-sector and public-sector loss," Culver said.

The Iowa flood of 2008 was an

event involving most of the rivers in

eastern Iowa beginning around June 8, 2008, and ending about July 1, 2008. Flooding continued on the Upper Mississippi River in the southeastern portion of the state for several more days.



Buildings and debris are seen floating in the Cedar River against a railroad bridge Saturday, June 14, 2008, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

The flooding included (from north to south, east to west), the Upper Iowa River, the Turkey, and the Maquoketa Rivers; outside of the Driftless Area, they include the catchments of the Wapsipinicon River and that of the Iowa River, to include the latter's major tributary, the Cedar River (and its significant tributaries); and the Skunk River in its various forks. The Des Moines River had some minor flooding, but floodwalls

(Continued on page 4)

PLEASE JOIN US!

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

18th Annual Conference



“Oklahoma Floods – How Prepared Can We be in a Changing Climate”

Monday, September 22 – Wednesday September 24, 2008

Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Center

Something's happening to our World Climate – it's changing rapidly which leads to more intense weather events – something we are all aware of now....and it's Happening in Oklahoma!

After the Floods of 2007, our Annual Conference this year will focus its theme and tracks on Climate Change. The effects of a changing climate will impact both structural and nonstructural floodplain management in the future. The Conference Program will provide you with some perspectives and approaches to deal with the impacts of a changing climate.

Themes and Tracks -

The Times are Changing – Climate

Let's Look at It – Oklahoma from NW to SE – Water runs downhill

Manage What We've Got

Structural Management – Where are We?

Non-Structural Management

Pulling it Together

Where are We Going

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

Workshop provides 12 CECs.

Plan to attend, register early, reserve your hotel room(s), and participate.

OFMA has reserved rooms at Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110

1-800-325-3535, 1-405.455.1805 www.sheraton.com/midwestcity.

Cost is just \$81 or current prevailing Government Rate for Single, or Double plus tax per night.

Reservations due no later than August 29, 2008. Mention you are with Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

lowered enough to assess the levee damage; thirteen levees on the Mississippi River were overtopped or breached in the Rock Island District's area of operation (6 federal, 7 non-federal - map above; bullet list to the right) during the June 2008 flood. All the sand levees subsequently breached due to the overtopping. All levees that overtopped will have to be evaluated after the water recedes further to determine whether they also breached.



Green Country Stormwater Alliance
Give Clean Water a Helping Hand

In 2004, the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) was approached by the US Environmental Protection Agency Region VI (EPA) office about starting a Stream Team in Oklahoma. INCOG received an EPA FY-04 104(b)(3) Wetlands grant from the Oklahoma Office of Secretary of Environment (OSE) to develop and implement the Oklahoma Stream Team (OST). The OST mission is to develop resources that provide alternatives to concrete or riprap lining of streambeds in favor of more natural channel improvements that favor environmental protection and improve water quality.

Purpose

The Oklahoma Stream Team is an association of Federal, State and local environmental agencies devoted to providing communities, planners and developers with realistic options for stream modification and stormwater management projects that protect and enhance water quality. The development, consulting and municipal communities are educated on the values of preserving healthy streams and riparian systems. The Oklahoma Stream Team encourages stream restoration and watershed planning by providing technical assistance in the project planning phase that will result in greater compliance with Federal and State permits under Section 404 and stormwater regulatory programs. Services of the Oklahoma Stream Team are free of charge.

As the EPA supporting grant ended in December 2007, INCOG remained committed to maintaining the OST efforts in Oklahoma. There continue to be the need for new partnerships and projects. To further this effort The Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA) was formed. GCSA and OST share common goals to protect urban watersheds and enhance water quality, and in this way the GCSA takes over for the OST.

GCSA Program Background

Stormwater is not just fallen raindrops - rainfall carries with it loose material and chemicals that can cause pollution in surface water. Pollutants in stormwater runoff are often transported to storm

sewer systems and ultimately discharged directly into local rivers and streams without treatment. Common pollutants in stormwater runoff include trash, solvents, petroleum products, heavy metals, pesticides and fertilizers from lawns, bacteria, and sediment and chemicals from construction sites.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) stormwater program now regulates discharges from many Municipal Separate Storm Water Systems (MS4s). Phase I of the regulations addresses large cities (Tulsa and Oklahoma City) and 11 categories of "industrial activities". Phase II addresses many other cities in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the permitting authority in Oklahoma.



When the Phase II stormwater regulations were adopted by EPA in late 1999, INCOG member governments potentially affected by this new permit program requested INCOG's assistance. It was determined that INCOG could implement a regional program to address certain stormwater controls, mainly dealing with public education, employee training and providing technical assistance to its members.

INCOG organized a statewide advisory group that included the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), and the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML). This advisory group held several meetings to work out technical problems in developing the State's general permit and permit application procedures. In addition, INCOG formed a Stormwater Steering Committee of not only its stormwater cities, but also many other cities in Oklahoma.

As permits began to be issued in 2006, this Steering Committee became the Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA) as a way to identify the unified commitment of stakeholders to implementing stormwater protection strategies in Northeast Oklahoma.

From the beginning, cities in Oklahoma wanted to have consistency among their stormwater programs. In 2002, INCOG developed a model Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) document that could be modified by each city to suit local conditions. INCOG received EPA approval of this document and it was eventually used by many cities in Oklahoma as the basis for their own SWMP documents. Each city developed its own list of Best Management Practices (BMPs) along with associated measurable goals and implementation schedules.

Because this is a new permit program, many changes will likely occur over the next few years as each city (and INCOG) grows into technical maturity.

Many city and county members of the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG), including additional cities in Oklahoma, have created the Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA) to collectively address stormwater pollution



regionally. INCOG coordinates the GCSA activities, which include a variety of public education programs, technical assistance, and employee training. This website is dedicated to assistance for citizens and businesses within the GCSA, as well as for providing resources for GCSA municipalities themselves.

For More Information

Please contact Richard Smith with [INCOG](mailto:richard.smith@inco.org) at (918) 579-9450 for more information about the Oklahoma Stream Team or to inquire about how OST can assist with your project planning.

To learn more about water quality programs in Oklahoma, visit the [INCOG water quality website](http://inco.org/waterquality).

For information about urban water quality and stormwater protection visit the [Green Country Stormwater Alliance](http://greencountrystormwateralliance.org) website.

TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN® POSTER CONTEST



Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road, Turn Around Don't Drown®. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.

To increase Oklahoman's Flood Awareness, the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association held a statewide poster contest open to all fourth grade students throughout the great state of Oklahoma. Contest winners received \$250 for first prize, \$150 for second prize and \$100 for third prize plus trophies and certificates. Winners from each of the five regions throughout Oklahoma will have their posters published on the 2009 Turn Around Don't Drown® calendar due out in the fall.



The first place winner for the state of Oklahoma is Fiona Stout (shown receiving her trophy and check from Jeff Bigby, OFMA Region 2 Representative) at Rockdale Elementary School in Miami, Oklahoma. Not only did she win a beautiful trophy and \$250.00, but her

Membership Drive Contest

In April 2006, the OFMA Membership Committee was formed to recruit, retain, and mentor OFMA members. The Committee developed this membership contest initially in 2006 as a way to increase the membership numbers and encourage existing members to spread the word about the benefits of OFMA membership. As of May 2008, OFMA has over 400 members and the Board is committed to seeing that number increase.

The Contest Rules are simple – encourage people interested in floodplain issues to become a member of OFMA and share experiences with other floodplain administrators. All current OFMA members (except OFMA Board and Committee Members) are eligible to participate. The new member's application must be submitted or postmarked by August 31, 2008, and the member's (contestant's) name must be noted on the application. The top three contestants with the most points will be the winners. The points are calculated as follows: **3** point for a Corporate Member, **2** points for an Agency Member and **1** point for a Full Member. The winners and prizes will be announced at the Fall Annual OFMA Conference in September.

Good Luck!

Omeed Mollaian, P.E., CFM
OFMA Membership Committee Chair

HMGP FUNDING

W. B. Smith, OFMA Chair, has written a White Paper entitled the "Use of FEMA HMGP Funding." In this document Mr. Smith has presented OFMA's position in regards to the availability and use of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding from FEMA as well as the types of projects the funding may be used for.

All interested parties are encouraged to read the document submitted by Mr. Smith. You may do so by following the link below or by accessing OFMA's website.

http://www.okflood.org/pdf/OFMA_HMGP_Funding.pdf

ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS



FEMA

To provide assistance before or after a flood, the National Flood Insurance Program has developed a document entitled, "Answers to Tough Questions" that will help provide answers and reassure those affected by a flood. The document may be accessed from:

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2811>

(Continued from page 1) 18th Annual Fall Conference 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 intense, but fun will be had by all!



The Conference is once again anticipated 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 sight-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:

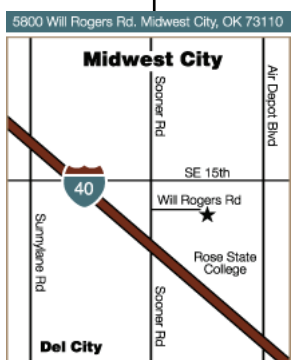
- Basic Training for new Floodplain Administrators/City Council/County Commissioners/Floodplain Board
- Intermediate Training for Experienced Floodplain Administrators
- Special Issues for Engineering

Consultants and Experienced Floodplain Administrators

Also, several very unique learning opportunities make this year's conference incredibly exciting. Dr. Ken Crawford, State of Oklahoma Climatologist, will discuss "The Times are Changing - Climate." Richard Roths, AICP, URC Chicago, will present "Using Zoning to Reduce Food Damage," a must for municipal officials. Finally, Bill Smith will outline OFMA's Disaster Response Team which will provide critical support to Oklahoma communities.

Monday evening will feature the Vendor's Social at Sheraton Plaza. Entertainment for the event will be an extra special treat consisting of Karaoke and a Hypnotist. We may only imagine the *interesting* situations this combination will create! Finger food and drinks will be available. Also, a

Hospitality Suite will be open after the Vendor Social at the Sheraton Hotel.



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 presenter Janet K. Meshek, P.E., CFM, the president of Meshek & Associates, PLC, will recognize achievements from the year. Afterwards, the live entertainment will feature Ronnie Kay, KOMA DJ in the Reed ABC Room.

The closing plenary session on

Wednesday will include Duane Smith with the OWRB presenting an "Agency Update"; Greg Main, CFM, ASFPM Vice Chairman and Indiana State NFIP Coordinator with national Policy Impacts "Where We Are Going"; Albert Ashwood, Past OFMA Chairman, Director of the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management; and Ross Richardson, Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch Chief, DHS/FEMA Region VI with "Non-Structural Management—How Valuable is the Flood Insurance". 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, a class from 1:00 to 5:00 on the SDE program, taught by Glen H. Beard from FEMA. Pre-approved applicants can also take the CFM test from 1:00 to 5:00.

For a complete schedule outline and a registration form go to <http://www.okflood.org/pdf/o8FAnnualConfRegistration.pdf>

Freddie Floodway

See you there!



Question: When an individual or homeowner asks for assistance with floodplain questions, who do you send them to?

Answer: 1. The local Flood Plain Manager 2. Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Question: What is the floodway?

Answer: The area of the channel of a creek and the adjacent land areas that are reserved for flood flows. This area is to be clear of fences, buildings, fill, or any other obstructions that could inhibit flood flows.

Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org
ASFPM 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/LOMR Forms:
www.fema.gov/fhm/frm_form.shtm
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
tsong@cox.net

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- 2008 Floodplain Management 101 or Map Modernization; the Map Adoption Process, & Advanced Floodplain Management**
 Floodplain Management Class Schedule. Apply online or Contact Cathy Poage (580) 256-1014
 October 14, 2008 - 101 in Norman, Advanced in Norman
 January 15, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Advanced in Tulsa
 February 2-6, 2009 - Week long CFM in Norman
 February 12, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Substantial Damage Estimator in Norman
 March 3, 2009 - 101 in Lawton, Advanced in Lawton
 March 5, 2009 - 101 in Woodward, Advanced in Woodward
 March 10, 2009 - 101 in Bartlesville, Advanced in Bartlesville
 March 12, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Substantial Damage Estimator in Tulsa
 March 24, 2009 - 101 in McAlester, Advanced in McAlester
 April 9, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Advanced in Norman
 May 12, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Letter Of Map Change in Norman
 May 14, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Letter Of Map Change in Tulsa
- ASFPM Annual Conference Green Works to Reduce Flood Losses;**
 June 7-12, 2009; Orlando, FL. Sponsored by ASFPM; website: www.floods.org
- 29th Annual Governor's Water Conference & 6th Annual OWRRI Water Research Symposium;** October 28-30, 2008; Sheraton-Reed Conference Center, Midwest City, OK, 73110.
- National Floodproofing Conference IV;** November 17-20, 2008; New Orleans, LA
- 2008 National Hydraulic Engineering Conference;** August 26-29, 2008, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME, 04101. Sponsored by FHWA, MDOT and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cold Research Laboratory; website: www.maine.gov/mdot/workshops-conferences-events/workshops-events.php
- OFMA 18th Annual Conference;** September 21-24, 2008, Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Conference Center, Midwest City, OK, 73110. Contact: OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; website: www.okflood.org.
- 2010 ASFPM National Conference;** June 13th-19th, 2010, Oklahoma City OK. Local Host OFMA; website: www.okflood.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.

2010 ASFPM National Conference

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



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

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

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



Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

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

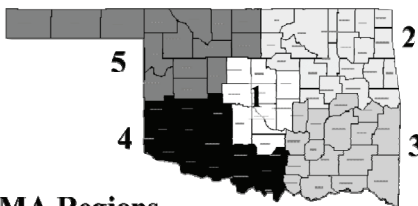
Mission

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

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

An Invitation to Join OFMA

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



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

OFMA Regions

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 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



Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Gavin Brady, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Summit in Washington D.C.. All 50 State NFIP Coordinator's and State Hazard Mitigation Officer's (SHMO's) were invited to participate in the Unified HMA Summit. Along with the 100 State participants were FEMA officials that manage the 4 HMA, non-disaster programs: Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) along with the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

The goal of the Summit is to unify the application process needed to enhance the grant process associated with each program. The competitive grants are awarded to any State, Tribal or Local entity.

Another goal is to combine the HMGP with these grant programs under the same Guidance Documents. Benefit Cost Analysis Reengineering (BCAR) was discussed at length and it's quite evident changes in this determination needed to be completed. The new and improved BCA tool will be online by October 1, 2008 and should be more user friendly. In comparing old projects using the new tool, the benefit cost was actually a little higher than with the old standard. Good news for those projects that always seems to be right at the 1.0 barrier.

Projects to protect either public or private property including acquisition and demolition or relocation are eligible under all programs along with projects of the same description that also account for open space conversion along with

elevation at or above the BFE. Other opportunities are available under these programs as well. While the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) assists communities in administering the NFIP, Bill Penka (SHMO) and the Oklahoma Emergency Management (OEM) administer the grant and disaster programs. To inquire about these programs contact Mr. Penka at

405.521.2481. Mr. Penka was also in attendance at the HMA Summit and it was quite evident that Bill and his staff have an overwhelming task of dispersing all the Oklahoma funds, especially HMGP, that have been available the past 2 years with all the Presidential Disasters declared. Please contact Bill or one of his staff to see if your community can benefit from any of these programs.



The OWRB and OEM are working to build a better relationship between the 2 Agencies. Floodplain Management and Emergency Management should be working hand in hand to provide a better product "saving lives and protecting property" to Oklahomans. This is not just a State of Oklahoma issue either. It was apparent at the Summit that Nationally, both agencies need to do a better job working together. Bill and I will work harder to see that's done here in our great State.

See all of you next month at the OFMA Annual Conference in Midwest City.

Gavin Brady, CFM
NFIP State Coordinator



FEMA

NATIONAL FLOOD HAZARD LAYER UPDATE

On July 14, 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) started updating the National Flood Hazard Layer daily. New Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) data now is reflected on the NFHL as of their effective dates, providing users with access to the most current flood hazard information. Online NFHL services, including MapViewer - Web, NFHL Web Map Service (WMS), and Google Earth™ utilities, provide access to these data immediately. The updates also are included in the monthly releases of NFHL Geographic Information System (GIS) data, which is packaged by individual state. For more information, visit the FEMA Map Service Center website at <http://msc.fema.gov> or call toll-free at 1-800-358-9616.

David Taft, Michael Baker Jr.
(703) 960-8800

FEMA Releases MHIP Version 3.0

FEMA has released the latest version of the Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan (MHIP), Version 3.0, which details FEMA's plan for prioritizing and delivering modernized flood maps for areas of the United States with the greatest flood risk. MHIP Version 3.0 amends Version 2.0 dated September 2006 and Version 2.5 dated April 2007. MHIP Version 3.0 provides: Detailed tables of flood map production targets; Stakeholder input information; a summary of FEMA's progress in meeting Key Performance Indicators for the Flood Map Modernization program; and Appendices that provide a detailed listing by State and county for all map production activities, both scheduled and completed.

MHIP Version 3.0, as well as previous versions, is available on FEMA's Flood Hazard Mapping Web site at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/mh_main.shtm. Interested parties with questions pertaining to the updated flood map production sequencing in MHIP Version 3.0 are encouraged to contact their appropriate local and State officials, who are working with one of FEMA's 10 Regional Offices.

Source: Ernie Lepore (703) 317-6276

OFMA recently responded with \$400 to a request for donations from the ASFPM Foundation Development Committee Chair sent to chapters nationwide. These donations will allow the Foundation to provide ongoing support for the Gilbert White Floodplain 2050 Forum, the Foundation Symposium, the half-time sponsorship of a grant application writing position for the ASFPM Executive Office, the Nick Winter Scholarship, initiative research and materials, and many other programs in support of advancing sound floodplain management throughout the nation. OFMA is asking for its members to help cover the cost of this support for the Foundation. Please remember that your donations are tax-deductible and help support the great work being done nationwide.



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