OFMA’s 16th Annual Conference Wrap-Up

If you attended this year’s Annual Conference, then you understand why Building a New Era of Floodplain Management rings true. From the opening ‘First Timers’ meeting to the discussion of Map Modernization’s impacts on effective flood maps, the OFMA Annual Conference drove home how the role of the Floodplain Manager is entering a new phase where technology, networking and education are keys to a successful program.

The OFMA Annual Conference was held on the University of Oklahoma campus in the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education complex. Having the Sooner Hotel within walking distance of the facilities mixed with the beautiful weather of mid September, participants at the conference enjoyed a very hospitable setting to experience all that was offered.

Although the conference began with an unfortunate rain out cancellation of the OFMA Golf Tournament, weather was not a factor for the remainder of the conference. Monday morning began with a new idea from our Membership Committee, a ‘First Timers’ meeting. Participants met with OFMA Officers, Region Representatives and Committee Chairs to gain a sense of fellowship with their new Association. The Opening Plenary Track started at 9:30 a.m. OFMA Chair Rex Hennen welcomed everyone to the 16th Annual Conference and was followed by a discussion from Mike Mathis and Lou Klaver on current program and legal issues at the State level.

Lunch was served in the Commons Restaurant and along with discussions from Mickey Douglas on floodplain management within Tribal governments and Nancy Wade on the Membership Drive Contest.

Monday afternoon had three tracks running concurrent sessions to choose from. A campus walking tour got participants outside as Janet Meshek and Richard Grotte highlighted the storm sewer project constructed in 2002 to drain areas of the OU campus to Duck Pond. Participants could attend an afternoon of Floodplain 101 with Ken Morris and OWRB Trainers to catch up on NFIP basics. Shorter tracks were available with topics on the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, allowing beneficial functions of the floodplains through low impact development and the Community Rating System. As always, speakers on each topic had first hand experience to share with participants.

(Continued on page 9)
Greetings -

As the holidays approach, our thoughts will wander from workplace concerns to issues involving family feasts and household decorating. There are two issues I hope you will keep in mind however.

First, within the next few years, Oklahoma communities will be getting new digital flood insurance rate maps, also called DFIRMs. The process requires significant public involvement, but FEMA has provided us with a top-notch toolkit to make the job easier. You’ll find it on www.okflood.org. I encourage you to take a look at this toolkit. There are “tools” for everyone involved in updating maps including local officials, builders, surveyors, real estate professionals, insurance agents, and lenders. Don’t forget that the Preliminary Maps are not effective until the public meeting processes under the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act are completed, and the new maps are adopted by ordinance modification in accordance with the Oklahoma Floodplain Act.

Second, on September 22, OFMA sent a letter to Tulsa Stakeholders, Inc., and other parties interested in “The Channels”. This is the project that proposes that a large island development be built in the middle of the Arkansas River in Tulsa. Those of you who attended our annual conference might recall hearing several speakers making references to the project.

The letter from OFMA is available on the OFMA website – www.okflood.org. I urge you to read it and become familiar with this issue as it will certainly affect floodplain management in Oklahoma one way or another. We hope the outcome will be a positive one, in keeping with no adverse impact principles.

When you read the letter you will notice that it is signed by our Vice Chair Bill Smith. Since I am a City of Tulsa employee, I must, as your Chair, abstain from policy-making actions related to the City of Tulsa. This is why I did not sign the letter. As far as OFMA’s voice on The Channels project, in the future, you will continue to hear Bill Smith or his designee. Please rest assured, however, that I share your commitment to sound floodplain management.

Janet Meshek and Chris Duncan are representing OFMA on the Arkansas River Corridor Committee relating to the Tulsa County Master Plan for the Arkansas River coordinated by INCOG and the Corps of Engineers. This committee also examined “The Channels” proposal to see what elements, if any, of “The Channels” can be incorporated into the Arkansas River Corridor Master Plan. I want to thank Bill, Janet, and Chris for their efforts. We are honored that OFMA has a seat at the table during this important issue.

- Laureen Gibson Gilroy, CFM

"Floods are 'acts of God,' but flood losses are largely acts of man." – Gilbert White, 1945

The nation’s floodplain management community is mourning the loss of its founding father. Throughout his career, Mr. Gilbert F. White championed the sound, comprehensive management of floodplains and the adoption of a broad range of adjustments to floods. He advocated, where feasible, adaptation to or accommodation of flood hazards rather than the "structural" solutions that dominated policy in the early 20th century. His work demonstrated that flood control structures not only occasionally fail the standards of reliability, but can actually increase the damage done when unsuspecting people risk lives and money to develop the land supposedly protected. White advocated the use of nonstructural solutions, such as zoning restrictions and flood proofing, to complement or replace more traditional structural approaches.

While White's academic career was distinguished, it was his commitment to public policy that dramatically expanded the significance of his contributions. He was instrumental in the investigations and reports that preceded the passage of the 1968 National Flood Insurance Act, and maintained a vigilant watch on the unfolding of the massive, multi-layered framework of flood loss reduction, insurance, and mitigation actions that sprung from that Act.

With one eye on lessons from the past, he never lost sight of long-term objectives: sustaining life in all its forms and avoiding violent confrontation, both with one another and with nature itself. His global studies of the interaction between humankind and water resources implicitly suggest that the choices humans make in one corner of the world may contain lessons for others elsewhere.

Gilbert was that rare combination — a distinguished scientist and an outstanding humanitarian committed to translating scientific evidence into policy and programs to better people's lives. Gilbert passed away on October 5, 2006 at his home in Boulder, Colorado. His was a life to celebrate. In memory of Gilbert, OFMA has sent a donation to the ASFPM Foundation for a special memorial fund for continuing work on flood policy.
Teaming Up to Improve Drainage through Channel Maintenance

With everything that goes on during day-to-day operations at a municipality, it is easy to see how drainage concerns can be overlooked—particularly during the relatively dry months of the summer. Without a decent gully washer, storm water channels can become overrun with natural and manmade debris, affecting the conveyance of stormwater safely downstream. Over time, it must be recognized that the capacity of a drainage channel is only as good as the location along the channel with the smallest capacity. Combined with natural erosion and sedimentation, un-maintained stormwater channels can become a part of the hazard they are designed to mitigate. Facing problems typical of a drainage channel, one Oklahoma community chose to team up and restore an important channel after years of facing the ill effects from deficient maintenance.

The City of Altus Street Department and the Altus Air Force Base’s Civil Engineering - Maintenance Division recently joined forces to tackle a major local tributary drainage problem. For many years the AAFB has been experiencing major flooding, particularly at the Main Gate entrance. This has been due to the slow but steady sedimentation buildup from upstream farm land run off.

To aid in the maintenance, Engineering Department Head and Region 4 Representative Phillip Beauchamp of the City of Altus reported the City provided a backhoe and 4 trucks for the project while the AAFB supplied a motor grader and track excavator. Work began at the box culverts located at the Main Gate entrance and progressed both up and down stream approximately 600 to 800 feet each direction. Additional drainage work was performed at other road crossing culverts located along this tributary, which runs for over a mile through the Altus Air Force Base.

This storm water project also included the straightening and widening of three residential storm drain ditches to include the placement of rip-rap and slab sodding to control erosion.

This project was a front page feature in a local Air Force publication and shows just what good can be done when agencies team together and work towards a common goal. By creating a win-win scenario, both sides are very pleased with the work done and are equally benefiting from the improved conditions.

Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan (MHIP) Version 2.0

The Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the cornerstone of the Nation’s strategy for preparing communities for flood disasters. The Flood Hazard Mapping Program is a key component of the NFIP. FEMA and its mapping partners provide flood hazard data and maps that are used to establish premium rates for flood insurance policies and guide floodplain management activities.

The catastrophic flooding events which have occurred in the United States since the inception of Flood Map Modernization reinforce the importance of assessing the validity of flood hazard designations on effective flood maps. In response to FEMA’s stakeholders, including Congress, the U.S. Government Accountability Office, and the Department of Homeland Security’s Inspector General, FEMA deliberatively assessed the course of Flood Map Modernization as it reached its midpoint. As a result FEMA has made some adjustments and has articulated them in an executive summary entitled “Flood Map Modernization Mid-Course Adjustment Executive Summary”. This document can be downloaded from FEMA’s Web site at http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/mm_mca.shtm.

MHIP Version 2.0 begins to reflect the Mid-Course Adjustment by allowing more flexibility and encouraging a greater focusing of resources in areas where flood risk is the highest. This effectively means that areas of high-flood risk will receive more attention and areas where flood risk is the lowest are deferred. Appendix A of this MHIP is partially shaped by this change in direction; however, as with any plan, individual flood map update details may change. The MHIP Version 2.0 60-day comment period provides flood mapping stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on the revised Flood Map Modernization plan. Flood hazard mapping partners that participate in the business planning process, including States, commonwealths, territories, and some Cooperating Technical Partners, working through the FEMA Regions, will have the opportunity and flexibility to request additional changes to the flood map update sequencing through the FY07 State Business Plans.

This version of the MHIP also frames the path forward with regard to potential changes in details of the previously established Floodplain Boundary Standard and a new procedure for determining where new studies would need to be conducted, where updates to existing flood hazards should be performed, and where existing flood hazard information can be considered valid. The potential small adjustments to the Floodplain Boundary Standard will better align it with automated flood hazard mapping technologies while maintaining its intent–to ensure the products delivered through Flood Map Modernization are timely and tied to a topographic source. The framework described for new, updated, or validated engineering analysis, although not yet fully defined, indicates FEMA’s direction with respect to this metric.

MHIP Version 2.0 is available on FEMA’s Flood Hazard Mapping Web site at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/mh_main.shtm.
OFMA Region 3: About the Region and the Representative

OFMA is proud of each of the Regional Representatives for the hard work each volunteer commits to. Without their dedication, OFMA would not be the successful association it is today. Each Representative works very hard to promote sound floodplain management within their region by keeping Floodplain Administrators updated with current events and program issues. They provide an important point of contact for floodplain managers in each region and are here to help each of you with any support they can. OFMA would like to thank Region 3 Representative Mickey Douglas for providing some insight into his background and the goals he has set for the region.

Mickey Douglas has been working with the Seminole Nation since December of 1995. He began his career in the Tribal Employment Rights Office as a Compliance Officer. Later on, Mickey was assigned to a one-year Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Inherited Minerals Ownership grant where he researched legal documents pertaining to Indian mineral ownership at the Seminole County Clerks Office. His diligent work practices with legal documents and compliance issues earned him an appointment in 1997 to the Director position of the Seminole Nation Environmental Protection Office (SNEPO), which he still retains.

Mickey has helped the Seminole Nation understand the importance of managing their floodplains. He has helped bring awareness to Tribal leaders on the proper use of floodplains and the importance of floodplain management as guiding concepts to be regarded as the Tribe grows economically and culturally to protect the tribe’s natural resources, property and human life.

Mickey joined OFMA in 2004 and quickly took on the role of Region 3 Representative in 2005. He has maintained his Region Representative status since that time. As Region 3 Representative, Mickey would like to see Region 3 communities become more active in OFMA and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). He believes it is very important to establish an efficient communication system to bring together all FPA’s and CFM’s on a regular basis. He would like to see Region 3 community floodplain managers maintain their certification by attending training sessions and foster floodplain mitigation activities. He would also like to see floodplain managers who work for a city, focus their attention on their community standing within the Community Rating System.

Mickey is a die-hard National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) fan! When it comes to drag racing, cars with 8,000 horse power accelerating to 330 mph in 4.5 seconds really get him enthused! Mickey is also a professional musician who plays bass guitar in a band known as "IronHorse". They have been together for over 10 years, opening up shows for national talent such as newcomer Jason Aldean, as well as veteran performers such as David Allen Cole, Exile, Confederate Railroad, Great Divide and Moe Bandy, just to name a few. One of his more memorable moments in his musical career was playing backup band for Tanya Tucker. Mickey also owns a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and enjoys riding and being "In The Wind" every chance he gets.

If you’re a Floodplain Administrator in Region 3, Mickey would like to hear from you! Thank you Mickey for all your hard work!
Twenty years ago this October, northeastern Oklahoma experienced an unprecedented, record-breaking flood event. In 1986, the Arkansas River basin received about one-half of the average annual rainfall within a six-day period. Truly a perfect storm, three meteorological events situated themselves over the country to allow moisture remnants of Hurricane Paine to unload over the basin. Even with the Corps of Engineers’ system of flood control structures in place throughout the entire basin, flooding became unavoidable, albeit less than the unrestricted flood it could have been without the flood control structures. In all, 11 lakes in the system completely filled or exceeded their flood control storage capacity. Even lakes within the basin that had 100% of their flood control storage available immediately prior to the rainfall filled to the tops of their flood control pools during the storm. Hulah Lake, upstream of Bartlesville, exceeded its surcharge, or safety zone above the top of the flood control pool.

The Keystone Lake Dam, upstream of Tulsa on the Arkansas River, was forced to release 310,000 cubic feet per second into the Arkansas River, flooding the downstream communities of Sand Springs, Tulsa, Jenks and Bixby. The region below the dam saw damages reaching $67 million. Sand Springs and Bixby alone had damages in 1986 dollars at $32.5 and $13.4 million respectively. Bartlesville saw damages from the Caney River at $37.2 million. In Tulsa, a private westbank levee failed, causing $1.3 million in damages to 64 buildings. Overall, thirty-three counties in Oklahoma, two cities outside those counties, and ten counties in Kansas were included in Presidential Flood Disaster Declarations.

After everything was over, two lives had been lost to floodwaters and the nearly 8.25 million acre-feet of flood control storage distributed over 11 lake projects along the main stem of the Arkansas River were almost completely compromised by one meteorological event. The basin suffered $283 million in flood damages including $63.6 million in Tulsa County and $39.7 in Washington County. And for the first time since its construction, communities along the Arkansas River saw firsthand the finite protection of the Keystone Dam.
An Awards Banquet is held each year at the OFMA Annual Conference. Awards are presented to those who have made exemplary contributions to floodplain management in Oklahoma and recognize excellence in flood loss reduction during this past year.

This year’s Ben Fizzell Media Award winner is Carol Cole of the Norman Transcript for her series on floodplain management practices and ordinances in the City of Norman. Her four-part investigative piece was published March 16 – 19 in the Norman Transcript and dealt with many topics including development, both planned and existing, and its impacts on stormwater runoff.

This year’s Charles Don Ellison Memorial Award for long term leadership and support in advancing OFMA’s goals was presented to Jim Coffey of the City of Bixby. Jim has been instrumental as an OFMA leader for many years. He served as Chair of the Association in 2004-05 and instigated the OFMA Strategic Planning Retreat as well as assisting with the creation and design of Freddie Floodway.

This year’s Platinum Level Ronald D. Flanagan Project Award was awarded to T.J. Davis of Sand Springs. T.J., a past OFMA chair, has overseen the buyout project for portions of the Meadow Valley subdivision. This subdivision, platted in the 1980’s, has seen numerous flood events including the major ’86 flood of the Arkansas River. A Silver Level award was presented to Darryl Hughes of the City of Guthrie for his work in a stream bank restoration project that significantly improved the carrying capacity of the channel during heavy runoff. Both projects were prized due to their public benefits in reducing flood related hazards.

The Special Recognition Awards are presented by the Board of Directors annually. These awards are given to individuals in the floodplain management business that have demonstrated excellence in an endeavor that is worthy of recognition. This year’s Special Recognition Award recipients are Sherri Stansel from Norman, Oklahoma, Jack Graham of FEMA Region VI and Larry Larson of ASFPMP.

This year’s Public Official of the Year Award was given to the Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner Kim Holland. Ms. Holland has been instrumental in educating the public on flood insurance and the dangers of flooding to property and life. Ms. Holland assisted with planning for the 1st Annual Oklahoma Climate & Loss Mitigation Conference in 2006. She advocated flood awareness with a news release during Flood Awareness Month describing flood insurance, the NFIP and why flood insurance should be considered for property protection. She also understands the dangers of flooding, which is why she works closely with the OWRB to educate and train property/casualty agents, adjusters and consumers on the NFIP, its rules and procedures. Thanks to Ms. Kim Holland for her continued support of floodplain management activities within the insurance industry.

The Floodplain Manager of the Year Award goes to an individual who has shown significant excellence in the field of floodplain management. The individual has demonstrated dedication through the administration of their community’s floodplain management program in pursing the goals of flood loss reduction and in the prevention of loss of life. This year’s award recipient of Floodplain Manager of the Year is Chloe Lewis of Comanche County Emergency Management. Comanche County underwent a Community Assisted Visit (CAV) where many, many violations were identified. Without resolution, these violations could put the County in violation and out of compliance, which can lead to suspension and eventual removal from the NFIP. Chloe took charge of each issue identified in the CAV and one by one, resolved them. She dedicated many hours and her commitment paid off. Thanks to her, residents of Comanche County are still able to purchase flood insurance to protect their property.

Congratulations to each of this year’s OFMA Awards recipients! Your dedication and service to this Association is greatly appreciated and valued as a critical asset to our goal of protecting life and property to flood hazards. Thank you!
### Possible Acquisition of Floodplain Properties in Oklahoma County

Acquiring floodplain and repetitive loss properties is a priority with our State and nationally with FEMA. Currently, a project is pending in Oklahoma County that could potentially acquire, through voluntary acquisition, over 100 residential structures prone to flooding using Hazard Mitigation Grant funds. County Planner and Floodplain Administrator Ruth Walters has been overseeing the Crutcho Park Acquisition Project, which is just entering Phase I. The area of concern is located in Unincorporated Oklahoma County near the confluence of Soldier and Crutcho Creeks with the North Canadian River. The area was developed in the 1950’s and contains a number of elderly residents and original owners. Today, these properties are in the 100-year floodplain and in some cases, the floodway. When storms begin to approach the 10-year frequency, homes and roadways become inundated causing life safety issues for elderly citizens and emergency responders. With the assistance of a consultant, eighteen structures have been identified for voluntary acquisition that meet an acceptable benefit/cost ratio, with 2/3’s of those property owners responding positively to the offer.

Emergency Management of Oklahoma County Director David Barnes applied with Oklahoma Emergency Management for grant money following the Presidential Disaster from wildfires in February 2006. If approved, a total of $700,000 may be allocated to the project from FEMA with a required 25% match from the County. Much of the grant match will be from in-kind services performed by the County including demolition activities and administrative costs. With the help of District 1 Commissioner Jim Roth, the acquired properties will create open space for the foreseeable future. Applying a deed restriction to the purchased property will ensure in perpetuity that development never occurs in that location, even if the lot is annexed into a local municipality. Phase 2 of the project will look to acquire another series of properties, with the possibility of relocating some structures to help grant funds go further.

### Broken Arrow Flood Event

On May 4th, 2006 the City of Broken Arrow and Wagoner County received over 6” of rainfall in a 3 hour period. This rainfall event was larger than the 500-year event in certain areas. Over 150 homeowners within the City of Broken Arrow and Wagoner County reported varying degrees of flood damage. Jeff Bigby, CFM, Broken Arrow Floodplain Administrator reports that since the flood, the City has initiated a Citizens Flooding Action Committee that convenes monthly. The goal of the committee consisting of citizens from affected areas and various city officials is to keep open the lines of communication and to update citizens on stormwater system upgrades planned to improve stormwater conveyance for flooded areas. Maintenance of floodplain and creek areas, whether privately or publicly owned, is also a major issue to be dealt with. Debris removal and keeping creeks and channels clear for stormwater conveyance is critical. Bigby also states that dozens of homes outside of the FEMA floodplain were damaged by the flood event, pointing out the need to get the word out about the benefits of flood insurance policies for homeowners. Any homeowner within a participating NFIP Community can purchase flood insurance whether within a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area or not.

### Question:

My community has recently received new “Preliminary” Maps from the countywide DFIRM restudy. I want to use these maps to enforce and regulate our community floodplains, since they are more accurate. Are “Preliminary” DFIRM maps enforceable once they are received? Can they be considered ‘best available data’ for regulation purposes?

### Answer:

Although ‘Preliminary DFIRM’ maps should contain the best available data and are therefore very enticing for regulatory purposes, they are not legally binding until they have been through a public hearing process and formally adopted by the community. Until then, the current Flood Insurance Study and effective FIRM maps should be used for regulatory purposes. The new DFIRMS, once through the 90-day appeal period (Preliminary DFIRM), will receive a Letter of Final Determination (LFD), which states the new DFIRM and FIS report will be effective approximately 6 months later pending the adoption, update or revision to the community Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Further information can be found at [http://www.fema.gov/fima/fis_data.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/fima/fis_data.shtm).
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.

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Tulsa, OK 74101

Or call Carolyn Schultz (918) 669-4919

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Umbrella  20.00
Portfolio  25.00
Lapel Pin  3.00
CFM Lapel Pin  5.00

Shipping and handling $4.95 per order.

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **Floodplain 101**: Nov. 28 and Dec 12, 2006. OU Center for Continuing Education; 1704 Asp Ave. Norman, OK. Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800; website [www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us)
- **Floodplain 202**: Nov. 14, 2006 Jenks; March 6, 2007 McAlester; March 20, 2007 Lawton; March 27, 2007 OKC; March 29, 2007 Woodward. Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800; online registration: [www.owrb.state.ok.us/util/commentsFP.php](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us/util/commentsFP.php)
- **2006 Water Summit**: Nov. 30, 2006. Oklahoma Regional Training Institute; 6500 N. Kelly Ave. Oklahoma City, OK. Website: [www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us)
- **Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP**: Jan. 2007. Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800; website [www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us)
- **City Management Association of Oklahoma—Winter Conference**: Jan. 10-12, 2007; Stillwater, OK.
- **Legislative Reception**: Feb. 2007; Oklahoma City, OK.
- **Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors Annual Convention**: March 8-10, 2007
- **ASFP Annual Conference**: June 3-7, 2007; Norfolk, VA. [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)
- **OFMA 17th Annual Conference**: September 16-19, 2007, Double Tree Hotel Downtown, Tulsa, OK. Contact: OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; website: [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org)
- **FEMA’s Annual National Flood Conference**: TBA; Denver, Colorado.
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

OFMA Membership Application

Name:____________________________________________

Title:____________________________________________

Work Phone:______________________________________

Fax:______________________________________________

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

Company/Organization:_____________________________

Address:__________________________________________

City/Town:________________ State:____ Zip:__________

E-Mail:___________________________________________

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
- Corporate Sponsor $100.00
(Plus $10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)

The best investment that $30.00 can buy in the future of your state is a membership in the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.
Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Lou Klaver, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator

Many of you have learned that Mike Mathis, Oklahoma Water Resources Board’s Planning and Management Chief and NFIP State Coordinator, has retired from the State of Oklahoma and taken a position in the private sector. Mike has been a valuable asset to both OFMA and the OWRB. We will miss his leadership and knowledge in floodplain management. Mike was continually looking at ways to better implement the NFIP in Oklahoma and with FEMA Region VI. We hope to continue down the path he established. As many of you may know, I have been Assistant Chief for the Planning and Management Division of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for the past ten years and am now serving as the Acting Division Chief. Before working with Mike Mathis as his Assistant Chief, I practiced law and was an attorney for the OWRB. I have worked with the floodplain management program in the past and look forward to working closely with OFMA in the future.

As Mike has mentioned on several occasions, Oklahoma continues to deal with the most severe drought our State has experienced since the 1930’s. I was in Tulsa last week and as I drove north on Riverside Drive towards downtown I was amazed how little water was in the Arkansas River (Zinc Lake) and what a contrast it was to the water level in the flood of 1986. I’ve seen several articles on the proposed “Channels” project in Tulsa. The project proposes to place commercial and residential development within the banks of the Arkansas River (floodplain and floodway). We all want our cities and towns to grow and prosper, and for them to provide for enjoyable living for our families and loved ones. However, we would never pursue such growth and prosperity if to do so meant growth and development in harm’s way. Municipalities along the Arkansas River share the same responsibility with the citizens they represent. We all must take great care and special precautions if development is to occur within the channels of the Arkansas River. Bill Smith, P.E., CFM and Vice Chairman of OFMA recently wrote a letter to the Tulsa Stakeholders, Inc., relating to “The Channels” project. He expressed OFMA’s concern and quoted a portion of our Mission Statement, “Saving lives and reducing property loss are our ultimate goals”. OFMA will work closely with Tulsa Stakeholders, Inc., to assure these goals are met.

OFMA’s 2006 Annual Conference was a huge success. I want to thank all of those who helped make it happen. Outgoing Chairman Rex Hennon passed the gavel to our new Chair, Laureen Gilroy, CFM. I know I speak for all of you when “Thanking” Rex for a job well done. We look forward to Laureen’s year as Chair with Bill Smith serving as Vice-Chair. I see great things in our future.

As you purchase your 2007 OFMA Calendars, mark down these important dates: January 9-13, Floodplain Management 101 class at the University of Oklahoma; March 1, OFMA Spring Technical Conference at Moore-Norman Technology Center in Moore; and OFMA’s 2007 Annual Conference in Tulsa at the Downtown Doubletree, September 16-19.

I look forward to working with all of you this upcoming year.

Lou Klaver, Acting Chief
Planning and Management Division
Oklahoma Water Resources Board

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<th>Company</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMEC</td>
<td>Dennis Lawlor</td>
<td>3601 SW 28th St., Ste. 209 Topeka, KS 66614</td>
<td>785 272-6830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myers Engineering</td>
<td>Bill Myers, President</td>
<td>116 Northwest 132nd Oklahoma City, OK 73112</td>
<td>405 755-5325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URS</td>
<td>Michelle Barnett, P.E., CFM</td>
<td>1437 South Boulder, Suite 660 Tulsa, OK 74119</td>
<td>918 582-2552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benham</td>
<td>Barend Meiling, PE, CFM</td>
<td>One West Third St., Suite 100 Tulsa, OK 74103</td>
<td>918 492-1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand River Dam Authority</td>
<td>Robert W. Sullivan, Jr.</td>
<td>P.O. Box 409 Vinita, OK 74301-0409</td>
<td>918 256-5545, x4467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Municipal League</td>
<td>201 N.E. 23rd Street</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3199</td>
<td>405 528-7515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utley &amp; Associates</td>
<td>Marc Utley, P.E.</td>
<td>3500 South Boulevard, Suite D-1 Edmond, OK 73013</td>
<td>405 341-9555</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carter &amp; Burgess, Inc.</td>
<td>Brian Bannister CFM</td>
<td>10001 Broadway Extension, Suite 100 Oklahoma City, OK 73116</td>
<td>405 810-8254</td>
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<td>Oklahoma Society of Land</td>
<td>Burck Cornelius</td>
<td>13905 Twin Ridge Road Edmond, OK 73034</td>
<td>405 721-7222</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surveyors</td>
<td>Jean Vieux, President</td>
<td>350 David L Boren Blvd Suite 2500 Norman, OK 73072</td>
<td>405 325-1818</td>
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<td>Cinnabar Service Company</td>
<td>Terry Young</td>
<td>5121 South Wheeling Avenue Tulsa, OK 74105</td>
<td>918 742-0082</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenbush &amp; Design</td>
<td>Vince DiCamillo CFM</td>
<td>6110 Frost Place Laurel, MD 20707</td>
<td>301 982-2898</td>
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<tr>
<td>R.D. Flanagan &amp; Associates</td>
<td>Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM</td>
<td>2745 East Skelly Dr., Suite 100 Tulsa, OK 74105</td>
<td>918 749-2696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinnabar Service Company</td>
<td>Terry Young</td>
<td>5121 South Wheeling Avenue Tulsa, OK 74105</td>
<td>918 742-0082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crafton Tull and Assoc., Inc.</td>
<td>Phil Hagen</td>
<td>235 North MacArthur Blvd Oklahoma City, OK 73127</td>
<td>405 787-6270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydropower International</td>
<td>Julie Guy P.E., CFM</td>
<td>10759 East Admiral Place Tulsa, OK 74116</td>
<td>918 437-0282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheridan Engineering</td>
<td>John F. Sheridan, Ph.D., P.E., CFM</td>
<td>P.O. Box 219 Haskell, OK 74436</td>
<td>918 482-3417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynergy AEC</td>
<td>Robert Day, P.E.</td>
<td>320 South Boston, 12th Floor Tulsa, OK 74103</td>
<td>918 877-6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JGVE, Inc.</td>
<td>Donald D. Vick, PE</td>
<td>124 NW 10th St., Suite 101 Oklahoma City, OK 73103</td>
<td>405 236-8313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watershed Concepts</td>
<td>Richard Frithiof, P.E.</td>
<td>811 Barton Springs Road, Suite 811 Austin, TX 78704</td>
<td>512 435-5367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewberry Design</td>
<td>Andrew Cueto, P.E.</td>
<td>1350 South Boulder, Suite 600 Tulsa, OK 74119</td>
<td>918 295-5263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JGVE, Inc.</td>
<td>Donald D. Vick, PE</td>
<td>124 NW 10th St., Suite 101 Oklahoma City, OK 73103</td>
<td>405 236-8313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Roberts Baldischwiler, LLC</td>
<td>Mathew Smith, P.E.</td>
<td>25 S. Oklahoma Ave., Suite 400 Oklahoma City, OK 73104</td>
<td>405 840-7094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Consultants, Inc.</td>
<td>Satish Dasharathy</td>
<td>2803 South Bryant Avenue Edmond, OK 73013</td>
<td>405 844-3900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meshek and Associates, Inc.</td>
<td>Janet K. Meshek, P.E., CFM</td>
<td>P.O. Box 636 Sand Springs, OK 74063</td>
<td>918 241-2803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swift Water Resources</td>
<td>Mark S. Swift, P.E., CFM</td>
<td>9 East 4th Street, Ste. 301 Tulsa, OK 74103</td>
<td>918 582-1380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oklahoma</td>
<td>Baxter Vieux, Ph.D., P.E.</td>
<td>202 West Boyd, Room 334 Norman, OK 73019</td>
<td>405 325-3600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2006-2007

Ex Officio:
Mrs. Lou Klaver
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
3800 North Classen Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Phone: (405) 530-8800
Fax: (405) 530-8900
E-mail: ckklaver@owrb.state.ok.us

Chair:
Ms. Laureen Gibson Gilroy, CFM
City of Tulsa
200 Civic Center, Room 515
Tulsa, OK 74103
Phone: (918) 596-2859
Fax: (918) 596-1869
E-mail: lgilroy@cityoftulsa.org

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

Secretary:
Ms. Ellen Stevens, Ph.D, PE
Painter & Associates
1235 Sovereign Row, Ste. C-6
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
Phone: (405) 488-0714
Fax: (405) 488-0713
E-mail: ellenphdpe@aol.com

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

Region 1 Representative:
Ms. Leslie Lewis, PE, CFM
ODOT
200 NE 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Phone: (405) 521-6500
Fax: (405) 522-0134
E-mail: lllewis@odot.org

Region 2 Representative:
Mr. Jeff Bighby, PE, CFM
City of Broken Arrow
220 S. 1st Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
Phone: (918) 259-2400 ext. 5241
Fax: (918) 259-8453
E-mail: jbigby@brokenarrowok.gov

Region 3 Representative:
Mr. Mickey Douglas, CFM
Seminole Nation Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 1603
Seminole, OK 74818
Phone: (405) 382-5112
Fax: (405) 382-3211
E-mail: douglas_mickey@sbcglobal.net

Region 4 Representative:
Mr. Phillip Beaschamp, CFM
City of Altus
220 East Commerce
Altus, OK 73521
Phone: (580) 481-2228
Fax: (580) 481-2203
E-mail: engineering@cityofaltus.org

Region 5 Representative:
Ms. Cindy Tubbs, CFM
City of Enid
PO Box 1448
Enid, OK 73702
Phone: (580) 234-0400
Fax: (580) 234-8946
E-mail: ctubbs@enid.org

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

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

Honorary Board Member:
Mr. Hank Elling
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
PO Box 806
Lawton, OK 73502
Phone: (580) 248-7762
Fax: (580) 248-0737
E-mail: hecelling@owrb.state.ok.us

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

Honorary Board Member:
Mr. Sterling Overturf, CFM
Meshek & Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 636
Sand Springs, OK 74063
Phone: (918) 241-2803
Fax: (918) 241-9245
E-mail: soverturf@meshekengr.com

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