



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 3

November-December 2000

Number 2

Central Oklahoma Flooding Presidential Disaster Declaration Issued



Nancy Wade, CFM, OFMA Region 2 Representative and Floodplain Administrator for Bartlesville, points to the high water mark on a substantially damaged home, in Apache, OK.

Severe flooding hit Central Oklahoma during the period of Oct. 21 through Oct. 29, 2000, in Caddo, Carter, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, Kiowa, McClain and Tillman counties. In the town of Apache, 30 homes were destroyed and 25 homes and 6 businesses suffered major damage. Eighty-six percent of the victims were low-income, and 90 percent were uninsured.

In Anadarko, flooding forced 80 residents to be evacuated and damaged the city's water control facilities. Chickasha suffered damage to its water treatment plant and roads and streets. Road closures and damages were reported in 9 counties.

Edmond received 5-1/2" of rain in one hour, which equates roughly to the 500-yr flood event. Fifty homes and businesses were flooded. Although several major arterials and intersections were deeply flooded,

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President Bush's FEMA Nominee,
Joe Marvin Allbaugh

Oklahoman is Bush's Nominee to Head FEMA

Joseph Allbaugh, an OSU graduate in Political Science and former Deputy Secretary of the Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation, has been nominated to be the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Allbaugh, at 6'4" and 270 pounds, will succeed the popular James Lee Witt.

Allbaugh has been one of President George W. Bush's closest advisors, campaign manager, and chief of staff in Texas.

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TRAINING REQUIREMENT WOULD BE A PLUS FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS

by W. Kenneth Morris, CFM
Oklahoma Water Resources Board

There is nothing quite like a flood to demonstrate that many local floodplain administrators are not familiar enough with their ordinances, the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), or disaster relief, for the timely response needed for their communities and citizens in that time of crisis and recovery. Unless they are adequately trained, they or their superiors (who are usually elected officials) often believe **the state and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will come in and save the day, with little responsibility on the part of the locality.**

A case in point took place in southwest Oklahoma in October, when several communities experienced flash floods. Shortly afterwards, I found myself in one of those communities, briefing the mayor (an insurance agent), a county commissioner, and other officials. The program was not well received when I explained that their citizens should not do any flood repairs or move back into their homes until officials completed damage reports to determine substantial damage. **This was a shock** to them. I asked if they had held a spring flood campaign workshop this year. **You know the answer to that one!** I am afraid this flood caught them quite unaware of the requirements and responsibilities they vowed to uphold. This would not be the case with well-trained floodplain officials who know their ordinance, what to do when flooding triggers its substantial damage provisions, the specifics of Increased Cost of Compliance coverage, and how state or federal aid is intertwined with flood insurance.

After the flood is not the time for training. Going in after a terrible event like this one and trying to bring the public and officials up to speed is tough—tough on emergency management, tough on the elected officials, tough on the citizens, and tough on the NFIP. After the flood is the time to break the cycle of repeated flooding. One way of doing that is to enforce the substantial damage provisions of the ordinance. But many local floodplain ad-

ministrators have no clue about substantial damage or ICC.

The big problem is inadequately trained local floodplain administrators. For example, Oklahoma has 363 NFIP communities and only 80 certified floodplain managers (CFMs). That is not enough. Floodplain management is a daily job and if communities assign that responsibility, as an afterthought, to a low-level, untrained staff position, then what program success can be expected?



Ken Morris - OWRB

The Association of State Floodplain Managers, the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association, and other associations have voluntary certification programs that require passing an examination on the many aspects of floodplain management. These certification programs are a big step in the right direction, and they should be supported, and new ones fostered.

But more should be done. Establishing a training requirement for local staff would help ensure more effective administration of local ordinances. **The Federal Emergency Management Agency should consider requiring certification of the local floodplain administrator as a condition of a community's participa-**

tion in the NFIP.

In addition, all local floodplain administrators, *including certified ones*, need to attend periodic ongoing training on the NFIP and related facets of emergency management and assistance, particularly the constantly changing federal requirements described in Title 44 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. The OFMA and ASFPM have continuing education requirements for their voluntary certification programs. A combination of further incentives and requirements—again, perhaps in conjunction with NFIP participation—should be explored to ensure that, once trained and/or certified, local administrators *remain* up to date in the floodplain management field.

There is also a need for college courses on floodplain management that would be tied into a floodplain management certificate program at the university level. The ASFPM has held preliminary discussions with the Emergency Management Institute about developing an "Introduction to Floodplain Management" course and identifying other partners for such an effort.

In short, **we are desperately in need in this country of a comprehensive program of training, education, certification, and other credentialing in floodplain management** both for those who work at the state and local level and as an option for college students who are interested in the field. And to be effective, these training and education opportunities need to be interwoven with appropriate incentives and requirements that will ensure the right people have the right answers next time a locality is hit with a flood.

After several intense meetings and discussions, **my hat is tipped** to the local officials in Caddo County and Apache, Oklahoma, **for not taking the easy way out**, but instead **enforcing their NFIP ordinance**

OFMA's 2000-2001 Board of Directors



OFMA's 2000-2001 Board of Directors elected at the OFMA Annual Fall Conference at Lake Texoma, are, from l to r: W. Kenneth Morris, CFM Executive Director; Nancy Kennedy, CFM, Region 1 Representative; Carolyn Schultz, CFM, Treasurer; Jason Shiever, Region 5 Representative; Nancy Wade, CFM, Region 2 Representative; Thomas Graham, CFM, Region 4 Representative; Anna Waggoner, CFM, Chair; Ron Flanagan, CFM, Past Chair, BFE Editor; Linda Reed, CFM, Secretary; David Sprouse, CFM, Region 3 Representative; and Larry Shelton, Vice-Chair.

Central Oklahoma Flooding

(Continued from page 1)

people still attempted to drive through them. Nancy Kennedy, CFM, Edmond Floodplain Administrator and OFMA Region 1 Representative, began running videos on Edmond's cable TV channel about the dangers of driving through floodwaters.

On October 30, 2000, Governor Keating requested a Federal Disaster Declaration for severe storms and flooding. President Clinton declared the event a major disaster on November 27, 2000. The Federal Declaration (FEMA 1349-DR), provided:

Individual Assistance for individuals and families in Caddo and Grady Counties.

Public Assistance to help State and local governments repair or replace disaster-

damaged public facilities in Caddo, Carter, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, Kiowa, McClain and Tillman Counties.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds (75% federal share) are available to all counties in the state for actions taken to prevent or reduce long term risk to life and property from natural or technological hazards.

Allbaugh - Bush's Nominee

(Continued from page 1)

A veteran of campaigns in 39 states, Allbaugh indicates he is committed to emergency management and is interested in working closely with the states. His closeness to the President suggests that continued direct access to the President on floodplain and emergency management issues will be ensured.

Source: ASFPM's Member Bulletin, 1/8/01

Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org

ASFPM www.floods.org

OWRB www.state.ok.us/~owrb

FEMA www.fema.gov

Corps of Engineers
www.swt.usace.army.mil

EMI Independent Study
www.fema.gov/home/emi/ishome.htm

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(Continued from page 4)

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New Certified Floodplain Managers

Oklahoma has another fifteen nationally accredited Certified Floodplain Managers, five of whom are new CFM's. These new nationally accredited CFM's took the two-hour comprehensive exam, consisting of 120 questions and a practical exercise, at the end of the Fall 2000 Conference at Lake Texhoma, OK. They are:

Byron Benham, Blackwell * **John Harrington**, ACOG

* **David M. Biggers**, Lahoma **David Mackey**, Ft. Smith

Gavin Brady, OWRB - Tulsa * **Mike McCool**, Tulsa

* **Jeff Byram**, Edmond **Janet Meshek**, Sand Springs

Jackie D'Amico, Midwest **Te Anh Ngo**, Oklahoma City
City

T. J. Davis, Sand Springs **Jimmy Sanders**, Grove

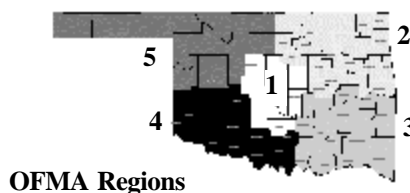
Hank Elling, OWRB - **Troy Tinnin**, Purcell
Lawton

* indicates new CFM's

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 \$20.00 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

Category Affiliation(s): _____

New Member: ☐ Renewal: ☐

Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

Categories:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Mitigation | B. Floodplain Regulations |
| C. Flood Insurance | D. Mapping & Engineering |
| E. Flood Proofing | F. Stormwater Management |
| G. Research | |

Dues Schedule

First-Year dues are prorated depending on the quarter during which you join. Fiscal year is October 1 – September 30.

	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Full Membership	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
Student Membership	10.00	7.50	5.00	2.50
Associate Membership	15.00	11.25	7.50	3.75
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



Substantial Damage Training

FEMA and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board conducted a class and field training on Estimation of Residential Substantial Damage on Jan. 3, 2001. The "hands-on" training was conducted by FEMA contractor Don Glondys of URS. The class, held in Apache, OK, was attended by over 40 Floodplain Managers from throughout the state.

Substantial Damage is defined as: Damage of any origin sustained by a structure located in the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area, whereby the cost of restoration to its pre-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

NFIP Regulations require that a substantially improved structure must be brought into compliance with local ordinances, and elevated (or flood proofed if it is a non-residential structure) to or above the level of the 100-year or base flood elevation.

The Floodplain Managers visited several substantially damaged residences in Apache. FEMA and URS instructors toured the buildings with small groups of students, observing and discussing the damages, and determining damage estimates to 16 categories of residential improvements within the house.

FEMA has developed new Residential Substantial Damage Estimation materials, including guidance manuals and computer software. Using the materials provided, Floodplain Managers can accurately estimate the damages sustained by a residential struc-



Floodplain Managers listen to FEMA's Instructors during Residential Substantial Damage Estimation class, held in Apache, OK, Jan 3, 2001.

ture due to flooding.

The enforcement of the substantial improvement requirement, as defined in the NFIP regulations (44 CFR, 59.1), frequently becomes a major concern for local officials after a flood.

Calendar of Events

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association maintains a list of flood-related meetings, conferences, and training at www.okflood.org

- **Feb 14, 2001:** 4th Annual OFMA Legislative Reception; State Capital, Rm. 412B; Catered by Jamil's (10am-2pm)
Contact: Ken Morris (405) 530-8800
- **Mar 7, 2001:** OFMA Spring Training; OU Conference Center. Contact: Carolyn Schultz (918) 669-4919.
- **Mar 30 - Apr 5, 2001:** National Symposium on Mitigating Severe Weather Impacts: Design for Disaster Reduction; University of Oklahoma Severe Weather Center; Tulsa Civic Center. Contact: Cindy Ward, Univ. of OK. (405)447-8418.
- **Apr 4, 2001:** Oklahoma Flood Forum, Civic Center Tulsa, OK, Real Estate Agents, Lenders, Insurance Agents, Public Officials
Contact: NFIP, (281) 829-6880.
- **May 8, 2001:** OWRB Region 1 Floodplain Management Workshop - Norman, OK Contact: OWRB, (405) 530-8800.
- **May 10, 2001:** OWRB Region 2 Floodplain Management Workshop - Tulsa, OK Contact: OWRB, (405) 530-8800.
- **May 20-23, 2001:** Small Watershed Programs: Past, Present, and Future, Seventh National Watershed Conference, Richmond, Virginia. Sponsored by the National Watershed Coalition. Contact John W. Peterson, National Watershed Coalition, 9304 Lundy Court, Burke, VA 22015-3431; (703) 455-6886; fax: (703) 455-6888; jwpeterson@erols.com
- **May 22, 2001:** OWRB Region 5 Floodplain Management Workshop - Woodward, OK Contact: OWRB, (405) 530-8800.
- **May 24, 2001:** OWRB Region 4 Floodplain Management Workshop - Lawton, OK Contact: OWRB, (405) 530-8800.
- **May 31, 2001:** OWRB Region 3 Floodplain Management Workshop - McAlester, OK Contact: OWRB, (405) 530-8800.
- **Jun 3-8, 2001:** Twenty-Fifth Annual Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Charlotte, North Carolina. Contact the ASFPM Executive Office, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713-3120; (608) 274-0123; fax: (608)274-0696; asfpm@floods.org; <http://www.floods.org>
- **Sep 24-26, 2001:** Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) Annual Fall Conference, Contact: OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; <http://www.okflood.org>

Profile: 2000-2001 OFMA Vice-Chair

Larry Shelton

City Manager, Chickasha

Larry Shelton is the 2000-2001 Vice-Chair and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

Larry Shelton, Chickasha City Manager since 1991, was born and raised in Popular Bluff, Missouri. He attended Three Rivers Community College in Missouri; Harvard and LaSalle Universities and holds degrees in Engineering Design and Business Administration. Mr. Shelton has been married for more than 27 years and has one daughter, a senior at the University of Oklahoma.

Mr. Shelton was an engineer in private practice in Little Rock, AR, for approximately twelve years before becoming Director of Planning and Development for Pulaski County Arkansas (Little Rock). During Mr. Shelton's 20 years of public management he worked for the Cities of Guthrie and Chandler in OK and as the City Manager in Maumelle, AR, before becoming City Manager in Chickasha, OK. Mr. Shelton was the 1999 recipient of the Gerald Wilkins Award (City Manager of the Year).

During his engineering and public management career, Mr. Shelton has always placed an emphasis on capital projects and innovation as it relates to municipal operations. Through the years he has had the good fortune of working with many fine individuals who have pro-



Larry Shelton, OFMA Vice-Chair
City Manager, Chickasha

vided expertise in bringing about beneficial change in government operations.



OFMA'S CORPORATE PARTNERS



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Change Service Requested

November-December 2000

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2000-2001

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