



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 7

December 2004-January 2005

Number 1



The 2004 OFMA conference was another big success! Highlights include:

Monday, September 20: OFMA Chair Andy Kincaid opened the conference with a warm welcome and conveyed to the 150 FP Managers the “Daily Adventures of the CFM.” Oklahoma NFIP State Coordinator Mike Mathis updated all on the long awaited New Training Legislation Implementation passed earlier in the year requiring Floodplain Managers in NFIP communities to seek OWRB certified training. A video graphically demonstrating the disastrous effects storms can produce accompanied the opening session.

Last years opening day, triple training format proved to be such a success that this year followed the same breakout agenda. The now renowned, Mr. Ken Morris & team illustrated the core concepts in floodplain management in the Floodplain 101 breakout session. Oklahoma’s former FEMA representative, Mr. Lonnie Ward guided participants through an afternoon session on the Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) requirements. The third breakout session conducted incorporated the concepts needed for municipalities to build a collection of planning documents designed to further direct their efforts to safeguard, regulate and respond to natural hazards in their community. Ron Flanagan communicated

ANNUAL SPRING TECHNICAL TRAINING UPDATE

The Spring Technical Training is right around the corner! The March Training will be located again at the Great Plains Technology Center in Lawton on March 4th and the Tulsa Technology Center on March 11th. Stay tuned for registration information.

the importance and aspects of Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans, Kerry Cox directed the Emergency Operations Plan presentation, Janet Meshek discussed the concepts of the Master Drainage Plan and Bill Baker presented the many aspects of the Community Rating System (CRS).

Hay rides and a cook out followed that evening and in

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14th Annual OFMA Conference Summary

“Lighting the Way to Floodplain Management”

Western Hills Lodge, Sequoyah Resort Park; Wagoner, Oklahoma

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HB 2284: Accreditation Requirements for FP Administrators

HB 2284 changed the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act during the 2004 legislative session. Portions of Title 82, Sections 1603 and 1604 were changed and a new law added effective January 1, 2005. These changes and new law calls for OWRB to accredit floodplain managers and can be found in Title 82, O.S., Sections 1620 & 1620.1. This bill assigned new duties to OWRB to accredit persons having requisite knowledge in floodplain management and in minimization and prevention of flood hazards and losses. It also created a new definition, “Floodplain Administrator”-means a person accredited by the Board and designated by a floodplain board, to administer and implement laws and regulations relating to the management of floodplains. It also calls for floodplain boards to hire and employ an accredited floodplain administrator. OWRB staff is currently working on developing the rules for this accreditation process and will invite opportunity for input from OFMA and others through the public hearing process. For additional information contact Mike Mathis, NFIP State Coordinator, at 405-530-8800.

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the Hospitality Suite at the Bunk House, music preformed by the Skeet Baker Band brought a festive atmosphere to the closing of the conference's first evening.

Tuesday, September 21: Day two opened with breakfast and a choice of three 2-hour breakout sessions. *Administering Your Flood Ordinance* was lead by T J Davis, Nancy Kennedy and Lynne Stevenson. *Map Modernization/LOMR, CLOMR, & LOMA's* was lead by Jim Orwat, David Key and Dan Hoecher. *Preparing for a CAV* was lead by Ken Morris and Jack Graham. A refreshment break followed by the Plenary Session comprised of Diana Herrera's presentation on *New Legislation for the NFIP* and Ross Richardson, FEMA VI Branch Chief's discussion on *The Future of Floodplain Management, Homeland Security FEMA – NFIP*.

After lunch, the annual OFMA business meeting was held with reports by all regional representatives and committee chairs, as well as the Treasurer and Executive Director.

Three breakout sessions were held Tuesday afternoon, including Regulatory, Flood Insurance and Stormwater Management. Each session included three one-hour topics. All were well attended.

The Annual OFMA Awards Banquet began at 7:00 pm with FEMA Region VI Branch Chief Ross Richardson presiding. Janet Meshek received the Charles Don Ellison Memorial Award for her support of the highest goals of OFMA, and her significant long-term contributions of leadership and support that has clearly influenced and advanced the Association. Cliff Pitner, Floodplain Manager for City of McAlester, received the Floodplain Manager of the Year Award.



This year's Public Official of the Year Award was shared by three public officials and a judicial appointee. State Representative Thad Balkman and Senator Bruce Price shared one award in honor of their tremendous effort and support in promoting the long awaited legislation that establishes training requirements for all Floodplain Administrators assigned in NFIP participating communities. House Bill 2284, signed into law in April, 2004 by Governor Brad Henry will be a tremendous benefit to forwarding the NFIP's goal of reducing loss of life and property to floods in participating communities. Canadian County

Commissioner Phil Carson was recognized for his efforts to update and assist in enforcing regulations on a development property known to be flood prone along Purcell Creek in Canadian County. Because FEMA FIRM maps did not show this particular site in a flood zone, development nearly ensued. If it had not been for his creative efforts to inform the public of the many historic flood events that have occurred there, many unsuspecting citizens may have purchased sites in a known hazard area. Thanks to his efforts, new language in the floodplain regulations will help allow the County Floodplain Administrator to regulate building permit applications in known flood hazard areas. The Honorable Mike Burdge of Sand Springs was also recognized for his efforts to use bond issue funds to buy out properties that have received multiple flood damages in the Meadow Valley Subdivision.

Caddo County Floodplain Administrator Dale Lasley received the Platinum Project Award for his work on the acquisition of nine Repetitive Loss Properties in unincorporated Caddo County. These structures had received numerous flood damages from East Cache Creek and were acquired through an HMGP grant with assistance from the Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance Program (HMTAP).

The Ben Frizzell Media Award was received by the Tulsa World staff that included Amber Wilson, Kim Brown, Nora Froeschle, Hap Fry, Karen Shade and Cory Young for their tribute article on the devastating May flood event of 1984, which lead the City of Tulsa to revitalize its entire floodplain management program, which has now become recognized as a national role model.



The second presentation of the W. Kenneth Morris Honorary Lifetime Member Award was shared this year by two recipients who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, excellence in public service, and have been leaders in floodplain management. Lonnie Ward, FEMA Region VI and Ann Patton, City of Tulsa (retired) have both expressed a dedication and commitment in their fields while pioneering many notable services to their communities and organizations.

(Continued on page 3)

FEMA Floodplain Development Policies Overruled by Federal Court Case

Currently, development in the floodplain is permitted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as long as federal flood insurance is purchased. The future may soon be quite different thanks to a recent federal court ruling. In a landmark decision, a federal judge found FEMA in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by permitting such development to occur, which ignores the impacts of these activities on threatened Chinook salmon in Puget Sound. The ruling finds floodplain development can reduce salmon habitat while also creating a source for additional pollution runoff from the impermeable surfaces constructed. The ruling came in response to a lawsuit brought by the National Wildlife Federation and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. In fact, the court pointed to documents that showed both state and federal agencies had urged FEMA to comply with the ESA, without success. This ruling, siding with the concept of No Adverse Impact, could potentially have far-reaching effects on federal development standards for floodplain activities. A copy of the decision can be viewed at the following website: www.nwf.org/wherewework - click on the "Salmon" link (under Northwestern Natural Resource Center).



CBOR Needs Reviewers

The Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc. announces a project to create a Directory of Continuing Education Courses. The directory, currently containing an estimated 75 courses, will appear on the ASFPM website in the Fall 2005. These courses will help Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) and others interested in floodplain management keep current on issues and concepts, learn methodologies and models, and refresh their skills and practices related to the profession. Each course listed will include information identifying how many Continuing Education Credits (CEC) are applicable to maintaining your certification as a CFM.

The Certification Board of Regents (CBOR) manages the program and oversees the selection of courses. To fulfill its responsibilities, the CBOR is seeking ASFPM members to form a cadre of specialists from which those with appropriate expertise would be selected to review courses. As envisioned, this core group will number approximately 20 volunteers representing the full range of expertise and knowledge about floodplain management. When a new course is either proposed by a member or identified by the CBOR two or three individuals from the cadre will be asked to review the course. The team will recommend to the CBOR whether the proposal should be included in the directory and the appropriate number of CECs for the course. The CBOR will offer an honorarium to each participant of \$100 per review. By developing a cadre of 20 volunteers it is hoped that no one individual would be asked to help more than once or twice each year. If you are interested in becoming a reviewer, please contact the ASFPM Executive Office so we can establish an initial pool of reviewers.

(Continued from page 2)

Special Recognition Awards were received by the OWRB's Gavin Brady of Tulsa, the City of Cache's Dennis Woomavovah, David Wakefield of R.D. Flanagan & Associates, Nancy Wade from the City of Bartlesville, and Kathy Muckala from Oklahoma City. A Scholarship Award was presented to Steven Kennedy of Edmond, Oklahoma. Plaques were presented to all officers including outgoing Regional Representatives Nancy Wade, Region 2 and Robert Hitt, Region 5.

The evening concluded with entertainment by guitarist Edgar Cruz.

Wednesday, September 22: The final day of the Conference began with breakfast at 7:00 am. ODEM's Jerry Murphy and Byron Garver presented the morning Plenary Session on Benefit-Cost Analysis and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funds.

The committees met following the opening plenary session, including Legislative, Certification, Public Information & Education, Mapping & Engineering, and Mitigation.

Jim Coffey, City of Bixby and Vice-Chair of OFMA, lead a presentation on Flood Control and Community Development to finish off the Conference Presentation Agenda.

The new chair, Jim Coffey, City Planner from Bixby was welcomed in. The new vice-chair is Rex Hennen, Assistant City Engineer from Shawnee. The secretary and treasurer, Lynne Stevenson and Carolyn Schultz, were re-elected. Regions 1, 3, and 4 Representatives, John Harrington, Cliff Pitner and Dennis Woomavovah were re-elected. Region 2 voted in Jeff Bigby, the floodplain administrator for Broken Arrow and Region 5 elected Cindy Tubbs, the floodplain administrator for the City of Enid.

The Closing Session began at 11:00 am with remarks from the outgoing Chair, Andy Kincaid. The Chair gavel was passed to Jim Coffey who thanked all for attending and adjourned another very successful OFMA conference.

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
OEM 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
Link to: 44 CFR Ch. I (10-1-02 Edition)
http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/fr/waisidx_02/44cfrv1_02.html

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Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **OWRB Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP**; Jan. 10-14, 2005. Contact: *OWRB, 3800 North Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73118*; for more information, call 405-530-8800; website: www.owrb.state.ok.us.
- **NFIP CRS E278 Training Class**; March 15-19, July 26-29, September 20-23, 2005, Contact Tom Hirt for more information at (301) 447-1062.
- **OFMA Spring Technical Training**; Great Plains Technology Center, Lawton, OK, March 4th; Tulsa Technology Center, Jenks, OK, March 11th. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.
- **NFIP National Flood Conference**; May 23-27, 2005, Marco Island, Florida. Contact: *Dorothy Martinez, Program Specialist, 158635 Park Ten Place, Suite 108, Houston, TX 77084*; for more information, call 281-829-6880; website: www.nfipregion6.com.
- **Twenty-Eighth Annual Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers**; June 12-17, Madison, Wisconsin. 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.
- **OFMA 15th Annual Conference**; September 19-21, 2005, Quartz Mountain State Park, Lone Wolf, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.

OFMA Poster Contest

OFMA's Poster Contest deadline is February 25, 2005. Details and Rules regarding the contest can be located on the OFMA website www.okflood.org

Senator Named Public Official of the Year

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association recently awarded Senator Bruce Price with one of their most prestigious awards. The Democrat from Hinton was named Public Official of the Year. Price received the award because of his tremendous effort and support in pursuing historic landmark legislation in the state to ensure that floodplain managers receive quality training to ultimately reduce future flood loss. Oklahoma is one of only three states including Arkansas and New Mexico that require annual training for their floodplain managers. According to Oklahoma Water Resources Board Contractor Ken Morris, there are 377 communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Prior to the new law, these communities were required to appoint a floodplain administrator that administered and enforced a flood damage prevention ordinance. OWRB performs training for these individuals each year in May and hosts five workshops around the state. Mr. Morris said that only about 100 administrators attend the training annually. "This was an important issue that needed to be addressed. Previously, there wasn't any requirement or mandate for training, so most administrators weren't attending the training and thus didn't understand the magnitude of their job or the responsibilities that went with it," said Sen. Price. "One of the primary goals of the NFIP is to reduce property loss and unnecessary deaths from floods and I think the new law will make that easier."

"Sen. Price and Rep. Balkman R-Norman, co-author of HB 2284, have done a tremendous service to the people of Oklahoma" states Ken Morris. "We are greatly appreciative of their efforts. This is an issue that needs to be taken to the national level, and I know that with the passage of this legislation more good things will happen."



Committee Chair Updates

OFMA's committees met at the Annual Conference to review each committee's work in progress and update and review the progress of all old and new tasks. The Mitigation, Engineering & Mapping, Legislative, and Education Committees have all elected a new chairperson. Mr. W.B. "Bill" Smith, P.E., CFM of HISINC, L.L.C. volunteered to be the new Chairman of the Mitigation Committee and was elected by unanimous vote of those present. Mrs. Vaunda Pendergraft, CFM Community Development Coordinator for the City of Broken Arrow, was elected Chair of the Education Committee. Mr. Marc Utley, P.E. of Utley & Associates has been elected as the Engineering & Mapping Committee Chair. Ed Fite and Gary Shockley were elected co-chairs for the legislative committee. Mr. Joe Remondini, CFM will remain the Professional Development and Certification Committee (PDCC) Chair. The new PDCC Vice Chair is Jeff Bigby, CFM Floodplain Administrator for the City of Broken Arrow.

Turn Around, Don't Drown In Action

The **Turn Around, Don't Drown** campaign is designed to enhance public awareness of the dangers of driving or walking into flooded areas. The campaign seeks to make people aware of what can happen when they drive into high water. Engines can stall, and fast-moving waters can sweep cars off the road. Floods kill an average of 127 Americans each year, far more than lightning, tornadoes or hurricanes, according to the National Weather Service. Four-fifths of flood victims die after walking or driving into moving water. National Weather Service storm data records that show 3,192 people died in floods between 1974 and 2003, an average of 106 deaths per year. During the same period, lightning claimed 2,002 lives (67 per year), tornadoes killed 1,935 (65 per year) and hurricanes killed 421 people (14 per year). The records also indicate 80 percent of the flooding deaths resulted when people drove or walked into moving water. When approaching this intersection in Moore, OK during a recent storm event, one by one, drivers made identical three-point turns and went back the way they came thanks to this sign's creative use of the slogan alerting drivers what to do in case of a flooded roadway. Photo by Gayland Kitch, E.M. Moore, OK.



Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

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

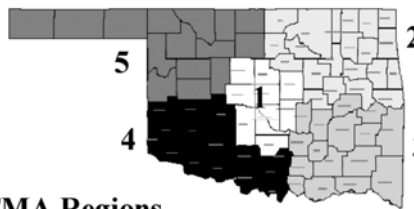
Mission

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
 ___ Mapping and Engineering
 ___ Education/Legislative
 ___ Certification
 ___ Conference

Dues Schedule:
 First-Year dues are prorated depending on the quarter during which you join. The fiscal year starts 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 (Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)	50.00	37.50	25.00	12.50
Corporate Sponsor	100.00	75.00	50.00	25.00



Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Mike Mathis, Oklahoma Water Resources Board

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association's 14th Annual Conference, held last month at Western Hills Lodge, was an overwhelming success. A valuable partner of the Water Board and one of the organizations targeted by the agency in our alliance-building strategy, OFMA continues to make giant strides in promoting floodplain management in Oklahoma. More than 150 floodplain managers from across the state attended the meeting and each earned 12 continuing education credits.

Lonnie Ward, Oklahoma's FEMA representative, who was reassigned to a similar position in Texas, was recognized at the meeting for six years of service to OFMA. We will certainly miss Lonnie's professionalism and leadership. We are lucky that Jack Graham, a long-time OFMA member and one of the state's first certified floodplain managers, will assume Lonnie's post. The transition should be seamless as Jack, like Lonnie, demonstrates wide-ranging knowledge of floodplain management issues in Oklahoma. And both men recognize the extreme importance of consistent and quality training programs for those involved in community land use planning, especially in crucial floodplain areas.

As 2004 comes to an end, I think most in the floodplain management community would agree that the legislation and new law requiring continuing education of floodplain administrators was the most significant event of the year. The OWRB has begun the rule-making process for floodplain manager accreditation and we encourage your suggestions and comments. Training and continued education is the key to responsible floodplain management at the local level. Our individual success in this discipline, as with all endeavors in our own lives, is dependent upon continued expansion of our personal knowledge and experience. It's just common sense.

I also want to thank OWRB staff for their continued hard work this year. Our people have worked diligently to complete the many targeted Community Assistance Program visits that ensure local compliance with NFIP regulations. In this regard, we depend upon community officials to maintain their program administration records and ensure that flood damage prevention ordinances remain current and enforced. Also, as we inventory repetitive loss structures in Oklahoma, we appreciate their assistance in providing staff with their local knowledge of individual properties and county records.

Finally, I want to remind you that the OWRB's upcoming training class, "Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP," is scheduled for January 10-14, 2005. Please call Rhonda Bowers at 405-530-8800 to enroll; class size is limited and the class fills quickly. I encourage all floodplain managers to take advantage of this excellent training opportunity.

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.



OFMA'S CORPORATE PARTNERS



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Change Service Requested

December-January 2005

Funding Acknowledgement

Funds to produce *The B.F.E.* come in part from the National Flood Insurance Program, State Support Services Element of the Community Assistance Program, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2004-2005

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The B.F.E. is published by the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to Editor, "The B.F.E.", P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101.