

# The BFE\*

\* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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## Register for Second Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop!

Registration is now open for the Second Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop hosted by OFMA, the Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance and the Green Country Stormwater Alliance.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, July 17 at the Moore Norman Technology Center, Franklin Road Campus, in Norman and include presentations on municipal stormwater management, green infrastructure, inspections and enforcement, and total maximum daily loads.

Representatives from the following organizations will be in attendance:

- Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
- Oklahoma Conservation Commission
- Indian Nations Council of Government
- Oklahoma Water Survey

If you are looking for stormwater training for your inspectors or other city officials, this is a perfect opportunity to get them to a local workshop focused on stormwater quality.

Registration is \$50 per person. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Check out [okflood.org](http://okflood.org) for more information.



## Words from the Chair

Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM



I hope that everyone has enjoyed the warmer weather that spring of 2019 has brought us.

Of course spring does bring increased flooding, tornado, and thunderstorm hazards, so let's all do our best to be vigilant for both our own safety and of those in our various communities across Oklahoma.

It has been a busy 2019 for OFMA and there are no signs of things slowing down.

### OFMA-ACEC Meetings

On January 29, Joe Remondini, as OFMA PDCC Chair, and I attended a meeting in Denton, Texas along with representatives of each of the six ASFPM Accredited Chapters and ASFPM Executive Office staff regarding the ongoing ASFPM accredited chapters issues.

OFMA leadership is taking an active stance on maintaining the annual Memorandum of Agreement that OFMA and the other five accredited states have with ASFPM that allows

OFMA to maintain a certain level of autonomy in regards to our CFM certification program and in setting our affordable OFMA membership and CFM renewal fees.

Oklahoma along with Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Illinois are working collaboratively to maintain our current modes of chapter operation while working to assist ASFPM with their membership recruitment, membership retention, and fairness and consistency amongst all national CFMs as best possible.

A meeting with the other five accredited chapters was held on April 29 in Denton, with another meeting to be held with the accredited chapters and ASFPM staff in Cleveland, Ohio at the 2019 ASFPM National Conference.

There will be a lot more discussions and potential negotiations on these issues between us and ASFPM. Because several of the issues and proposals could directly affect our current CFM renewal and OFMA membership fees, we will work to keep OFMA members apprised of the issues on this "moving target" issue.

### Legislative Reception

OFMA hosted the annual Legislative Reception at the State Capitol on February 21.

Several legislators and their staff members stopped by for a free lunch and floodplain education from several of the OWRB staff and our OFMA members who attended and helped.

It was well attended and many OFMA Constituents Guides were passed out to remind those at the capitol that OFMA is always there, statewide, as a helpful resource on floodplain issues.

### Spring Technical Workshop

OFMA held another successful spring Technical Workshop on April 4 in Tulsa at the Riverspirit Hotel and Conference Center. The theme of the workshop this year was Improving Technical Capabilities in Floodplain Management. We had more than 150 attendees.

As always, we had good informational reports from OWRB, FEMA, and OEM. There were several excellent plenary sessions and afternoon workshops on mitigation, modeling, outreach, and floodplain management.

A special thanks to Brandon Claborn for pulling the workshop together with his planning and recruitment of good speakers. Brandon did a great job of putting the technical back in the Spring Technical Workshop!

### Advanced Floodplain Managers Workshops

Multiple Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 OFMA Advanced Floodplain Managers Workshops have been presented by the OFMA Training Cadre.

There are still OFMA Advanced Floodplain Workshops scheduled for May in Woodward and in Ardmore.

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## Words

*...continued from Page 2*

Thanks to Joe Remondini, Bill Smith, and all of our dedicated OFMA Training Cadre members for this annual service they provide.

Registration for the workshops is on the OWRB web page at [owrb.ok.gov](http://owrb.ok.gov). Take advantage of these free technical workshops when you can!

### Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop

Mark your calendars for the upcoming OFMA Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop to

be held on July 17 at the Moore-Norman Technology Center.

This workshop was wildly popular last summer with around 110 attendees. We are expecting significantly more this year and hope that this sticks as an annual event for continuing education and networking for stormwater managers, professionals, and vendors.

This workshop build on OFMA's ongoing commitment to bridge together the floodplain management and stormwater management fields in Oklahoma.

### Annual Conference

The OFMA Annual Conference will be held on September 16-18 at the Choctaw Casino and Resort in Durant.

It will be a great conference as always and hosting it in southeastern Oklahoma will be an exciting new venture for OFMA.

Plan to attend!

## Anna Waggoner Receives OFMA Distinguished Service Award



OFMA's 2000-2001 Chair, Anna Waggoner

Anna Waggoner, CFM was presented the newly created OFMA Distinguished Service Award on November 27, 2018.

She retired from her position with the City of Yukon in late December of 2018. Anna performed floodplain management, GIS, and stormwater quality program duties at Yukon after working for the City of Woodward before that.

The OFMA Distinguished Service Award is presented to OFMA members who have contributed long term commitment to floodplain management and to OFMA.

Anna served as the OFMA Chair in 2000-01 and helped the organization in many ways. She was instrumental in helping to get the first annual OFMA Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop initiated in July of 2018.

OFMA thanks Anna for her years of service to OFMA and wishes her the best in her retirement!





## 2019-20 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association appreciates all the hard work by teachers, parents, and the many others who supported this year's poster contest. The students who entered also deserve our thanks. We hope that, by us working together to spread the **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN®** message, fewer people will be harmed by flood waters in Oklahoma.

More than 100 participants competed for the four State awards. This year's winners are:

<b>1ST PLACE</b>	Lawson Wells, Maryetta School
<b>2ND PLACE</b>	Adeline Blas, Bridge Creek Intermediate
<b>3RD PLACE</b>	Addison Bernardi, Frink-Chambers Public School
<b>HONORABLE MENTION</b>	Luis Varga, Lindbergh Elementary School

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winners received cash awards in the amount of \$150, \$100, and \$50, respectively. Top 13 posters in the State will be published in the annual OFMA Turn Around Don't Drown® calendar.

Each entry will be awarded with a Certificate of Participation. Teachers will be awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation. Special mention is given to the following schools for supporting student participation in this year's program:

- Bridge Creek Intermediate, Blanchard
- Frink-Chambers Public School, McAlester
- Grove Upper Elementary, Grove
- Holy Family Cathedral School, Tulsa
- Lindbergh Elementary School, Tulsa
- Maryetta School, Stilwell
- Robin Hill School, Norman

*The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates for the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training and service to Oklahomans. We encourage flood-safe development and sound floodplain management practices through education and certification.*



## BLE DATASETS TO UPDATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

The Voice — FEMA Region 6 Mitigation News & Information

Data prepared during a watershed Base Level Engineering (BLE) assessment provides an expansive flood risk dataset that can be used to develop or update a community's hazard mitigation plan.

Furthermore, the floodplain boundary, depth grid, and water surface elevation grid can be used to identify the vulnerable areas and the potential flooding impacts areas will experience.

This information will lead to the identification of effective mitigation activities that, when implemented, will reduce the risk to the community.

A plan's effectiveness can be linked to the detail of the information it contains. Having the best available data can drastically sway the priorities identified when choosing how to reduce risk.

Where detailed flood studies are not available, BLE can be used as best available information to identify where a community can expect to see flooding occur, how severe the flooding will be, and what community assets will be affected.

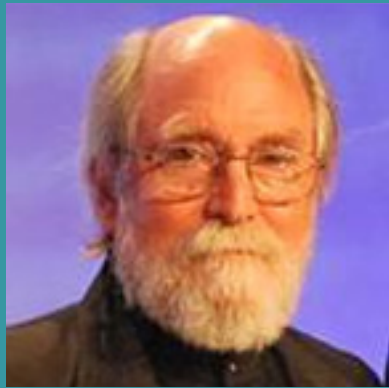
During the five-year cycle of the mitigation plan, the BLE data can also assist communities with evaluating and updating the plan to incorporate changes to their risk.

In places where both BLE and detailed flood studies are available, local planners can use this information in conjunction with the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) to determine if any changes to the data have occurred or if priorities need to be adjusted. Using these resources will lead the community towards effective activities that will reduce risk.

To see if BLE assessments have been completed in your area, visit the Estimated Base Flood Elevation Viewer at [INFRM.us/estBFE](https://infrm.us/estBFE). For more details about BLE, two fact sheets are available.



To identify candidate properties during development of a Voluntary Buyout Program BLE Flood Risk Datasets showing food depth can help rank properties and prioritize program outreach and potential acquisition.



**Contact Bill at [wbsmith@hisinc.us](mailto:wbsmith@hisinc.us) to preregister your community for SFHA DRT assistance.**

## OFMA DRT Corner

Bill Smith, PE, CFM

We continue to preregister communities in advance of their need support following Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) damage, whether by flood, tornado, earthquake, strong winds, hail, wildfire, etc.

If your community would like to pre-sign a request letter, please contact me at [wbsmith@hisinc.us](mailto:wbsmith@hisinc.us). I will send you a draft letter agreement and a draft Council/County Commission Resolution for your use. This is an authorization that is in place unless it is revoked by the community.

Our OFMA Damage Recovery Team (DRT) is prepared and equipped for the next time Oklahoma is threatened by flooding or other natural disasters in an SFHA.

Remember your duties as a floodplain administrator or as an emergency manager. If you hold both roles, don't forget to "turn your hat around" to look at the disaster through both role's perspectives.

The weather forecast for Spring anticipates active, severe weather

once again. This year, we experienced a slightly milder winter and more precipitation than usual, which fortunately did not include ice.

The spring forecast includes moderate to heavy rains (similar to what we experienced in May to June the last few years) and slightly cooler than normal.

So be prepared!

- Clean out the ditches and culverts.
- Work with your EM to determine potential evacuation routes.
- Think ahead to damage responses, debris cleanup, etc.

I urge communities to pre-sign for disaster assistance from the OFMA DRT. We are able to assist with Substantial Damage Assessments, BFE Determinations in Zone A SFHA, permitting, Outreach, and more.

## Congratulations to our new Certified Floodplain Managers!

New CFMs passed their exams in September 2018.

- Kyle Miller, PE, CFM  
Meshek & Associates
- Gary McCormick, PE, CFM  
City of Tulsa
- Sarah Struebing, PE, CFM  
Tulsa Engineering & Planning Associates

## Floodplain Management Training Calendar

The OWRB offers the following resources to educate and train floodplain management professionals on effective floodplain management practices and requirements. Floodplain administrators can earn credit toward Oklahoma's accreditation requirements by attending an approved conference or workshop, or completing FEMA's online courses.

**Sign up today! Space is limited. Courses, dates, and locations are subject to change or cancellation.**

### OWRB Courses

May 14 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 <i>Focus on: Letters of Map Change</i>	High Plains Tech Center 3921 34th St. Woodward
May 29 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 <i>Focus on: NFIP Overview</i>	Southern Tech 2610 Sam Noble Parkway Ardmore

### OFMA Courses

May 14 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course <i>Flood Proofing Options, No Adverse Impact, Rural Development, Ethics, Section 404</i>	High Plains Tech Center 3921 34th St. Woodward
May 29 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course <i>Ethics, Green Building, Overland Flow, Flood Proofing Options, Section 404</i>	Southern Tech 2610 Sam Noble Parkway Ardmore

## 2019 OFMA Legislative Reception Summary

OFMA hosted its annual Legislative Reception on February 21.

A steady stream of legislators and their staff members stopped by for a lunch spread catered by Jamil's.

Event organizers distributed 118 Turn Around Don't Drown calendars with Constituent Assistance Packages.

Overall, the reception inspired productive conversations about floodplain management emphasizing our organization's desire to be a helpful resource regarding floodplain insurance, mapping, and management.

Thanks to the several OFMA members and OWRB representatives who assisted with the reception.







## Availability of NAI How-To-Guides to Achieve a Resilient Community

ASFPM Foundation

In 2013, The ASFPM Board of Directors approved the development of seven *No Adverse Impact (NAI) "How-To-Guides."* This was a direct result of feedback from ASFPM members who used the NAI Toolkit which provided examples of NAI techniques, but didn't go into detail about how these techniques could be implemented in a "real world" setting. The ASFPM Foundation provided funding for the development of these *How-To-Guides*.

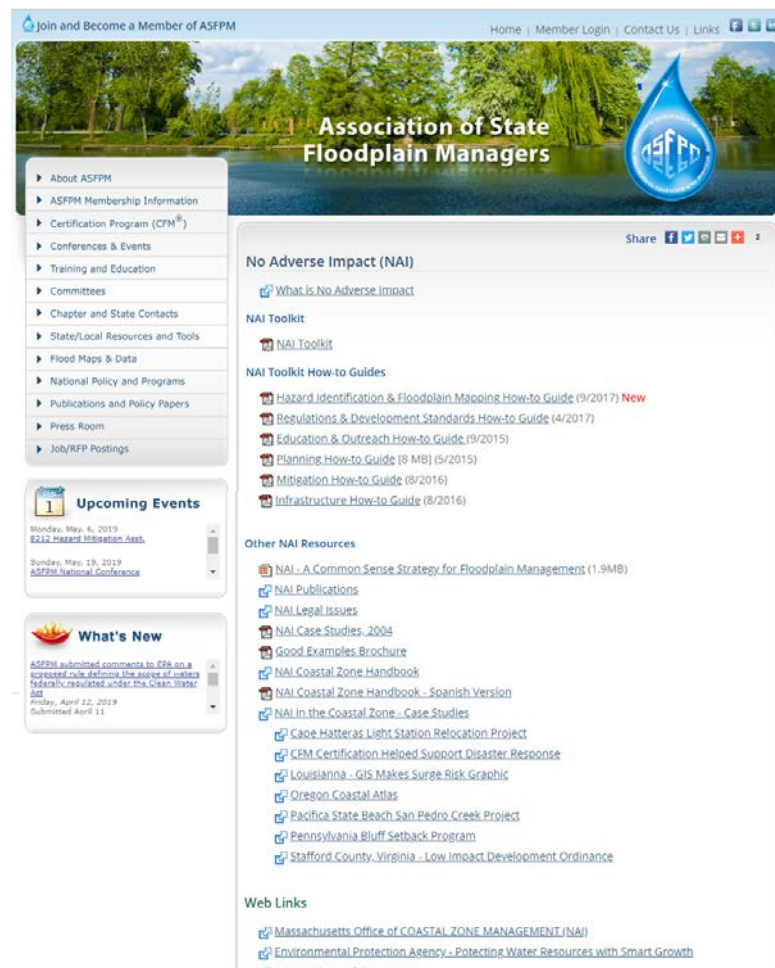
The NAI Toolkit identified seven "building blocks" or areas of community involvement that can have an impact, and the *How-To-Guides* are in alignment with these seven areas:

1. Hazard identification and floodplain mapping
2. Education and outreach
3. Planning
4. Regulations and development standards
5. Mitigation
6. Infrastructure
7. Emergency Services

Six of the seven guides have been completed and are available on the ASFPM website at [floods.org](http://floods.org). Content for the seventh guide, *Emergency Services*, has been completed and is in its final design stage and will be posted to the website soon.

The *How-To-Guides'* ultimate goal is to encourage communities to take a different approach to managing development that results in reduced flood risk; this can be accomplished by incorporating NAI techniques into a community's flood risk reduction activities. The *How-To-Guides* break down the information by topic in a user-friendly way that is easily understood and that communities can apply to their own unique circumstances. The Foundation truly believes the more NAI techniques a community implements, the better prepared the community is for the next flood event – not if, but WHEN it occurs.

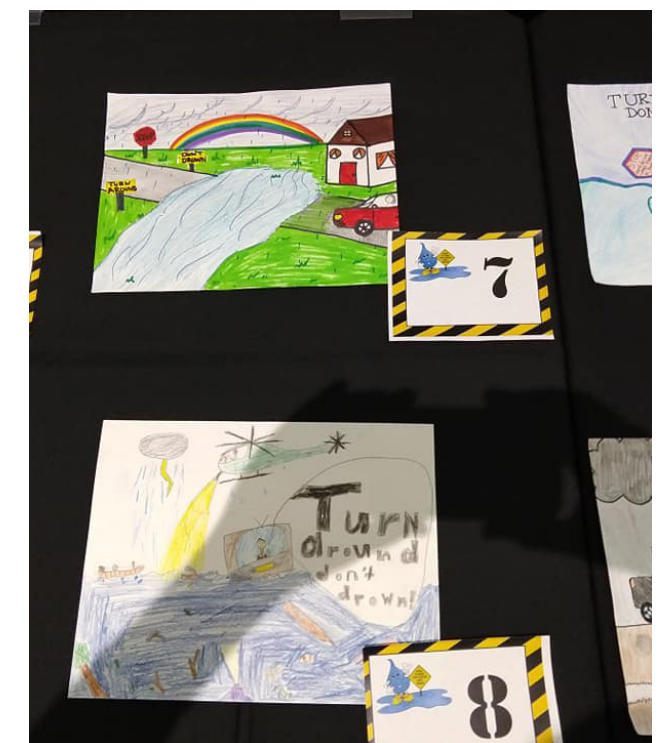
Communities striving for a more resilient future in the aftermath of a flood event should consider using these guides. The *How-To-Guides* can be found on the ASFPM website — [floods.org](http://floods.org).



## 2019 Spring Technical Workshop

Improving Technical Capabilities in Floodplain Management

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to this year's spring technical workshop.





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