

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Register NOW! | **1**

2019 OFMA Annual Conference
Preview Information | **2**

Capitol Rumblings | **4**

Shifting to a Culture of
Mitigation | **5**

Working Together Through All
Phases of a Disaster | **6**

May 2019 Flood Recap | **8**

OFMA DRT Corner | **10**

OFMA Board and Contact
Information | **12**

Registration Form: 2019 OFMA
Annual Conference | **13**

REGISTER NOW!

Registration form included in this issue!

All OFMA members, local Floodplain Administrators, Stormwater Managers, and guest are invited to the 2019 Annual Conference "The 2019 Floods: What Have We Learned?" to be held at Choctaw Casinos & Resort in Durant, Oklahoma.

The conference will include several plenary and concurrent sessions from Federal, State and Local entities on a wide variety of subjects.

For more specific inquiries about the conference and accommodations, please contact Brandon Claborn at bclaborn@meshekengr.com or 918.392.5620, ext. 207.

Please direct inquiries relating to registration, payment and membership to Carolyn Schultz at cschultz@cimtel.net.

The registration form is included as the last page of this newsletter. It and more information about the conference may be found at okflood.org/annual-conference.

The 2019 Floods: What Have We Learned?

2019 OFMA Annual Conference



CALL FOR PRESENTERS: The 2019 Floods...What Have YOU Learned?

Do you have first-hand experience in the preparation for, management of, and recovery after this year's flood event? Speak at the 2019 OFMA Annual Conference.

Presentations and workshops should be consistent with the theme. Potential topics include:

- Using Higher Standards to Prepare for a Flood
- FPM's Role in Disaster Response
- Technical Tools Used to Prepare, Manage and Recover
- Collaboration Between Agencies
- Water Quality Issues During and After a Flood Event
- NFIP, FEMA, OWRB, OEM, ODEQ, OFMA, or other agencies/programs

You are encouraged to submit topics early to secure your speaking selection. The deadline for submitting abstracts is August 16.

If you are interested in presenting, please submit an abstract and direct questions to Brandon Claborn at bclaborn@meshekengr.com. We can accommodate 30-45 minute presentations including Q+A time. Please include a time preference with your abstract.

More information about the 2019 OFMA Annual Conference may be found online at okflood.org/annual-conference

And the Award Goes To...

It's time once again to nominate your colleagues, your projects, and yourself for the 2019 OFMA Awards!

Nominations are open for the following awards:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Scholarship Award | • Silver Scoop Award |
| • Special Recognition Award | • Leatherbee-Robison Education Outreach Award |
| • Outstanding Recognition Award | • Public Official of the Year Award |
| • Chairman's Award | • J. Gavin Brady Floodplain Manager of the Year Award |
| • Charles Don Ellis Memorial Awards | • Kenneth Morris Honorary Lifetime Member Award |
| • Ronald D. Flanagan Platinum Project Award | • DRT Recognition |
| • Ben Frizzell Media Award | |

Submit your nominations by emailing Monica Cardin at mcardin@cityofdelcity.org. Please submit your nominations by Friday, August 9.

Winners will be announced and celebrated at the OFMA Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, September 17.

Vendors and Sponsorship

Conference sponsorships are available starting at \$100. Exhibitor booth space is available for \$350 and includes one registration, one 6-foot table, two chairs, and a waste bin. Additional amenities are available for an additional cost.

More information may be found online at okflood.org/annual-conference.

Capitol Rumbblings

Tom Leatherbee, PE, CFM
OFMA Co-Chair / City of Del City



If one were to survey most legislators about the National Flood Insurance Program, the result likely would be a number of scrunched faces and some hurried comments about being late for a meeting, at least metaphorically.

The NFIP is generally an unpopular subject, because the program is simultaneously “big government,” “government waste,” “intrusive government overreach,” and “inadequate”. In fact, a number of other pejorative descriptors can be found with a simple internet search.

and the large claim payments made in recent years, would a long-term reauthorization that fails to address commonly recognized program deficiencies be a surprise?

In short, of course not. To put it succinctly, the NFIP has not been materially altered since its inception, and it is unlikely to be altered going forward. Why? The answer is simple – America is addicted to flood insurance.

Flood insurance allows the bankers to lend and the builders to build, and those are the interests with the clout in the political discussion surrounding reauthorization. Even more cynically, the existence of flood insurance allows us to look judgmentally at those who built back in harm's way, no matter that they had no real exit option.

America is addicted to flood insurance.

At the same time the program persists because it has become necessary – to protect the lenders who have continued to extend credit in high risk areas, to protect the property owners who have continued to invest in high risk areas, and to the communities who continue to permit development in high risk areas.

As Congress has taken up the issue of a long-term reauthorization of the NFIP in earnest this summer, most of the saber-rattling about privatization and other changes to the fundamental nature of the program has ceased. While there is certainly some discussion occurring about potential modifications to the program, it is looking increasingly likely that any changes will be incremental in nature.

Especially in light of the NFIP financial status

As long as flood insurance is available, we can mentally chastise those who fail to insure against future losses and then turn away from the actual realities of the socioeconomic conditions that underlie flood risk stratification – and then we can move on from the disaster and kick the can down the road until the next disaster is imminent.

Those of us who have seen what flood disasters do to individuals and to communities know that we need real change to our conception of subsidized flood insurance and that any such change needs to begin with a commitment to stop enabling risky behavior. Unfortunately, this risky behavior is being driven by an economic model that is financially advantageous for those who have a voice in the political process, so expecting Congress to end our flood insurance addiction may be unrealistic.

Shifting to a Culture of Mitigation

Annie Vest
Planner and Grant Administrator, Meshek & Associates
Former State Hazard Mitigation Officer



The Federal Government is making significant progress in its investment in disaster mitigation. As the disaster paradigm finally shifts from a culture of response and recovery to one of mitigation and preparedness, Oklahoma communities must fall in line.

I submitted comments to the National Emergency Management Association Mitigation Committee in 2013 when the Deputy Administrator for FEMA proposed the elimination of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program. Since then, not only has the program been funded on an annual basis, but the impetus placed on the importance of mitigation from the Federal family as a whole has been tremendous:

- The application period for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) is expected to open in October 2019. FEMA's PDM program will take applications for a record breaking \$250 million nationwide. In 2020 PDM will be replaced with Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), authorized by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act. The program allows the President to set aside up to 6-percent of FEMA's disaster costs for mitigation the following year.
- In July 2019, US Sens. Brian Schatz (D-Hawai'i) and Todd Young (R-Ind.) introduced HR 3702: Reforming Disaster Recovery Act of 2019, to help communities plan for and recover from major disasters. The legislation would improve coordination in post disaster recovery and make recovery funding through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) accessible after a disaster without communities having to wait for Congress to pass a disaster funding bill.

In the coming months and years, there will be many opportunities for communities to take advantage of mitigation funds. Please take some time to check the status of your local Hazard Mitigation Plan. In past funding cycles of PDM and FMA, FEMA has required sub-applicants to have a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan at the close of the application period, and at the time of the award. To check the status of your plan, contact Matt Rollins, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, matthew.rollins@oem.ok.gov

Technology allows us to understand our risk to flooding better than ever before. We must use our knowledge, and resources to mitigate the impacts of disasters and reduce the loss of money, property, and life. I urge you to spend time now thinking about projects your community can apply for in the upcoming Hazard Mitigation grant cycles.

FEMA BCA Toolkit 6.0

The new version of FEMA's Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) Toolkit, Version 6.0, is now available to the public and may be used for project applications. Version 6.0 features an improved user experience and 80% reduction in data inputs compared to the previous version. Please also see the Release Notes for important information: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/179903>



Working Together Through All Phases of a Disaster

Joseph Kralicek, MPA

Executive Director, Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency

We live in an age that stresses the importance of information, companies like Google and Facebook have monetized the collection of information. This is due to the simple fact that decisions and decision makers require the best and most up to date information to make the best decision making. This is true in the business world and is especially true in emergency management.

As the emergency manager for the Tulsa area it is my responsibility to make decisions on a regular basis, but during an event such as a flood, I find it important to have the subject matter experts available in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to make sure that I am getting the best information possible. For floods, this will be my floodplain managers and engineers.

As the EM, I am responsible for managing all phases of a disaster: Planning, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. Floodplain managers and engineers have a role to play in all these phases as well.

For planning, it is vital that we understand the potential risks that the community has for flooding and where the problem areas are. To do this we need good information on which areas are prone to flooding and how ongoing projects might change the risk parameters.

For mitigation, providing ideas and projects

to remove or lessen the impact for flooding such as retention ponds, lists of repetitive loss properties, and other properties within the flood plain that might need to be considered for potential buy-outs is important.

The response side is perhaps the most unfamiliar for many floodplain managers and engineers, but it is also the time where having a good team in place is the most important. During an event you can expect EMs and first responders to be requesting up to date maps of impacted areas and with GIS these maps can make the difference between a successful response and one that is less so. The response community needs to know where the water is going to be, how deep it will be, how many structures will be impacted, where these structures are, and if the roads and bridges to these areas will be impacted by flooding. Much of this information exists but is separate and compartmentalized. As a community we need to work to compile all this information into a form that is easily accessed and used by the response community. In times of crisis, minutes can make the difference in promoting life safety.

Once the waters recede the work does not end, it only changes its appearance as we move into recovery operations. During this time, it is important to continue sharing information with the EM as they attempt to coordinate assistance to survivors. Supplying the EM with



Tulsa-area EOC during May 2019 flooding

a list of substantially damaged homes allows for the EM to create a collaborative effort with volunteer organizations and other second wave response to assist those homeowners and residents with taking the first steps along the road to recovery.

The most important thing that a floodplain manager or engineer can do though is reach out and meet your local emergency manager

if you haven't already. Communication and familiarity are vital in the response community. As the local subject matter experts on floodplains and hydrological models, you are the keepers of very valuable information that a local EM needs to make a good decision. You will be needed in the Emergency Operations Center at some point and during a disaster is not the time to be exchanging business cards.



May 2019 Flood Recap

David Williams, PhD, PE, CFM
Chief, Hydrology and Hydraulics Engineering Section,
US Army Corps of Engineers

According to preliminary data from the Oklahoma Mesonet, the statewide average rainfall total in May was 10.48 inches. The NWS cooperative observer site at Pawnee led the state with 22.52 inches, and there was a report of 24.69 inches by a volunteer observer near Talala. At least twenty-four (24) NWS sites in the region broke their all-time May rainfall mark. Nineteen (19) of those sites broke their all-time wettest calendar month marks as well, including seven sites whose records date back over 100 years. Record rainfall was also observed in Kansas. Twenty (20) Kansas Mesonet stations reported rainfall amounts over 20 inches for the month, with a Butler County station reporting over 30 inches. The average rainfall for the entire state of Kansas was 10.26 inches, which was the highest total in 125 years of record keeping.

Eight (8) USACE reservoirs in Oklahoma reached new pools of record: Altus Lake, Birch Lake, Great Salt Plains Lake, Hudson Lake, Kaw Lake, Keystone Lake, Oologah Lake, and Skiatook Lake. The historic rainfall observed in May produced widespread flooding along the Arkansas River and its tributaries. A release of 275,000 cubic feet per second resulted in the highest release from Keystone Dam into the Arkansas River since 1986. Although riverine flooding within the City of Tulsa and its suburbs was largely confined to open public spaces (with the notable exception of the River Spirit Casino, which was closed for several weeks), neighborhoods in unincorporated Tulsa County to the west of Sand Springs did experience significant flooding. Oologah Dam reached a peak release of 64,000 cubic feet per second on May 25. Severe flooding

occurred downstream along the Verdigris River near Claremore. Bird Creek also experienced major flooding, particularly in and around the towns of Avant, Skiatook, and Sperry. The crest of 31.29 feet measured on May 22 at Sperry was the fourth highest in the period of record. The Neosho / Grand River system also experienced major flooding. A stage of 25.51 feet measured at Commerce on May 24 was the fifth highest on record at that location, and downstream, a peak release of 222,000 cubic feet per second was made from Fort Gibson Dam on May 25.

The lower reach of the Arkansas River was most significantly affected by the flood, which was catastrophic in many locations. A crest of 46.39 feet, the second highest on record, was observed at Muskogee on May 26. The flow along the Arkansas River at Muskogee was an estimated 617,000 cubic feet per second. Extensive flooding occurred in and around the Port of Muskogee. Further downstream, the towns of Webbers Falls and Moffett were completely inundated. A flood of record occurred at Van Buren, Arkansas, with a crest of 40.79 feet observed on June 1. This crest, which resulted in flooding and levee breaches in Arkansas, exceeded the previous record by nearly three feet, and reached the Mississippi River by the second week of June.

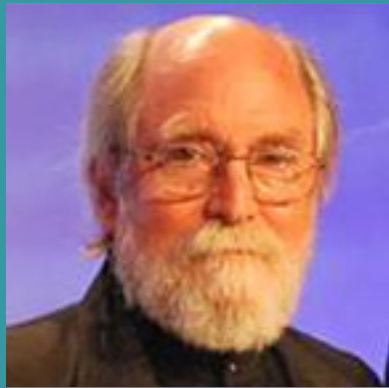
When flows on the Arkansas River below Keystone Dam reach approximately 150,000

cubic feet per second, the river begins to load the Tulsa / West Tulsa Levee System (otherwise known as Levee District 12). This network of levees stretches approximately 20 miles from Sand Springs to Tulsa, and reduces flood risk for approximately 10,000 people who live or work in the protected areas. The duration of loading along the Tulsa / West Tulsa Levee System was unprecedented, with flows greater than 200,000 cubic feet per second exceeding 10 days. Despite localized issues such as sand boils and sink holes, a significant amount of intervention occurred (including help from the Oklahoma National Guard), and the levees did not fail.

The cumulative inflow observed in Keystone Lake during the month of May was an astonishing 8.3 million acre-feet. Since Keystone has a flood-control capacity of 1.3 million acre-feet, the available storage within the reservoir completely cycled six times during the month. In comparison, the cumulative inflow during the October 1986 flood was 4.4 million acre-feet, but resulted in the largest release in the history of the dam (307,000 cubic feet per second). Technological investments made in the aftermath of the 1986 flood resulted in the ability to better forecast inflow into the reservoir, which was instrumental in the successful operation of Keystone and other Tulsa District reservoirs during the historic 2019 flood.



Tulsa, Okla. during May 2019 flooding



OFMA DRT Corner

Bill Smith, PE, CFM

Webinar Alert:

Planning for Drought and Cascading Hazards

APA and ASFP act as co-conveners. Includes resources and tools that can help planners and floodplain managers plan for drought in a multi-hazards context.

Thursday, August 15
1 p.m. to 2 p.m. CT

<https://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/hazards/planninginformationexchange/>

If you remember back to 2007 when I was OFMA Vice Chair the first time, my conference theme was “It Will Rain Again, It Will Flood Again”. No truer words were spoken when it comes to the May-June 2019 flooding events in Oklahoma and downstream in Arkansas, the Mississippi River, and points yonder.

When comparing the disastrous flooding this year with the May-June 2012 flooding events – they are similar; but this years’ are significantly different due to the duration of flooding compared with the relatively short flooding events in 2012.

Over the course of the past 8 weeks we have been in the field, provided significant consultation with communities, and still have communities that have not yet been assessed – in part due to continued high water in the reservoirs. Arkansas River flows today (7/16/19) are still over 100,000 cfs at Fort Smith which is just below flood stage. Most of the reservoirs in Oklahoma and Kansas are still in flood pool; though continuing to slowly drop. Rainfall events continue to occur periodically in July 2019, thus leaving the ground saturated, and thus causing more stormwater runoff. The “training” storms that have occurred this year have been devastating to too many residents who live in the regulatory floodplain, in the 0.2% (500-Yr) floodplain, and in the unshaded X zones.

The OFMA DRT has assisted throughout the state – Tulsa County (Sand Springs, Skiatook, Sperry, Bixby area); Miami; Webbers Falls, Ottawa County, Afton, and Wagoner with field assessments of flooded structures. We have consulted with communities who are choosing to perform their own Substantial Damage Assessments, such as Bixby, Sand Springs, Tulsa, Miami, and Wagoner County. We still have been called to assist in Blackwell. We are still performing SDE evaluations for the Town of Webbers Falls.

During our recent Oklahoma flooding responses with the Disaster Response Team I am finding a significantly greater amount of flooding in the 0.2% (500-Yr) floodplain limits with depths of flooding that are not that much different from those areas that are in 1% floodplain, nor are the ground elevations significantly different. Perhaps there is new modeling and mapping that is required.

We understand that the USACE Tulsa District is now re-evaluating the 1% flood and 0.2% flood releases from Keystone Dam on the Arkansas River and the downstream effects from Three Forks (Muskogee) to the Arkansas State Line once Pensacola Dam releases Grand River floodwaters, and other dam releases downstream (Eufaula) are combined and routed. This may change the flood flows, volumes and mapping in the future.

The greater issue I see happening is the “training” storms that cause full saturation of the ground, resulting in significantly greater runoff for small 1/2-inch or 3/4 or 1-inch rainfall events. This seems to be the trend since the mid 2000’s and though “training” storms are not a part of the FEMA flooding evaluation, they are causing significant flooding impacts to all structures in the 1%, 0.2% and unshaded X Zones.

Our history of flooding predications is based on about 105 years of weather records. Isn’t a little presumptive of us as scientists and engineers to be predicting flows and flood elevations with such a limited amount of data compared to the time that the earth has been

is devastating, exacerbating, frustrating, and about any other emotion that one can describe. It is tearing communities apart, and yet also bringing communities together. There has been so much education provided by these recent flooding events to not only residents, community officials, but also to government officials.

There are many individuals pointing fingers at someone else for their decision to live in or adjacent to the Special Flood Hazard Area. There are so many who could have had flood insurance, but for any number of reasons did not elect to purchase, and now want a government “bail-out”. When their hands are not filled with money, enough to make them

“It Will Rain Again, It Will Flood Again”

around. Climate change is really “Climate Repeatability” – as we begin to experience trends that have likely historically occurred before our time of recording. While we as humans are impacting the environment, there is a greater impact that overrules our impact. What we call the 100-Yr storm may well be a 10-Yr storm if we had 10,000 years of weather records.

Over the past few weeks I have heard many residents respond to their Substantial Damage Assessments in various extremes such as: 1) the desire for their community to withdraw from the NFIP, 2) refuse to comply with the requirement to elevate their pre-FIRM structures to comply with their ordinance, 3) determine to walk-away from their structure and let the status of their abandoned structure be resolved by the community, and 4) people who want to comply, rebuild, and maintain the integrity of their community.

The impact of the May-June 2019 flooding

whole, they get angry, frustrated, depressed, saddened, etc. It is time for people to be responsible for their own destiny – because:

“It Will Rain Again, It Will Flood Again”

We give thanks for the first responders who put their lives on the line to save those in need during times of tragedy;

We ask that you be with those who have been devastated by the recent flooding to console them, to provide spiritual support for them, and to give them strength to recover from this devastation;

We ask your guidance on those who lead the citizens of their communities to make wise decisions about the future of their city, town, county or tribal nation; and

We give thanks to all of the many volunteers who have set aside their lives to come to the assistance of those in need.

Funding Acknowledgment

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The BFE is published by the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association, Inc. 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:

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WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Floodplain Administrators
Planners
Engineers
Insurance Agents
Lenders
Real Estate Professionals
Elected & Appointed Officials
Local, State & Federal
Government Employees
Interested Citizens
Dam Owners
Developers
Emergency Responders
Teachers and Students
Anyone Involved with
Floodplain Issues

VISIT US AT
WWW.OKFLOOD.ORG

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/CREDIT HOURS

OFMA will provide certificates of attendance to all persons attending the full conference program. Participation provides 12 CECs for Certified Floodplain Managers and Floodplain Administrators. The Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors does not grant pre-approval of PDH's. Attendees are responsible for obtaining approval from governing accreditation agency.

All OFMA members, local Floodplain Administrators, Stormwater Managers, and guests are invited to the 2019 Annual Conference “The 2019 Floods: What Have We Learned?” to be held at Choctaw Casinos & Resort in Durant, Oklahoma. The conference will include several plenary and concurrent sessions from Federal, State and Local entities on a wide variety of subjects.

For more specific inquiries about the conference and accommodations, please contact Brandon Claborn at bclaborn@meshekengr.com or 918.392.5620, ext. 207. Please direct inquiries relating to registration, payment and membership to Carolyn Schultz at cschultz@cimtel.net.

The following may answer most general questions regarding the conference:

Registration: Registration is required for all participants and includes all conference sessions, afternoon training opportunities, lunch Monday and Tuesday, the Monday evening Vendors’ Social and the Tuesday evening Awards Banquet.

Accommodations: The conference will be held at Choctaw Casinos & Resort, 4216 S. Highway 69/75, Durant, OK 74701 . For your benefit, OFMA has negotiated rates at \$93/night. Reservations can also be made by calling the Choctaw Resorts & Casinos reservation office at 800.788.2464 and mention you are attending the OFMA Conference (block code: 1909OFMACO). **You must book by August 31 to receive the group rate.**

Call for Presenters: The Call for Presenters will remain open until August 16. Submissions may be accommodated on a space available basis.

Exhibitors: The conference provides opportunities for attendees to view exhibitor booths and interact with vendors. Booth space is available for \$350.

Sponsors: Several sponsorship opportunities are available for corporations or organizations who share and support OFMA’s vision. OFMA is a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are generally tax deductible.

Cancellation Policy: A \$50 fee will be charged for all cancellations made after September 1. Substitute attendees will be accepted. Please notify OFMA staff during registration.

Mail the registration form by September 1 to:
Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association
P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101-8101



QUESTIONS?

Contact Carolyn Schultz
918.906.3922
cschultz@cimtel.net



2019 Annual Conference

September 16-18

Durant, Oklahoma

The 2019 Floods: What Have We Learned?

Name: _____

Organization: _____ Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Special needs or vegetarian meal requests: _____

Registration Form

Conference Registration (Check all that apply)

_____ OFMA Member		\$350	_____
_____ Non-Member		\$400	_____
_____ CFM Exam (Pre-approval required. Wednesday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.)		\$50	_____
<u>Tuesday Evening</u>			
Tuesday Awards Banquet	(Choose one) YES _____ NO _____	\$0	_____
Awards Banquet Guest Number	_____	\$25	_____

OFMA Annual Membership Dues

_____ Full Membership		\$50	_____
_____ Agency Membership		\$75	_____
_____ Agency Designated Employees	_____	\$10	_____
_____ Corporate Membership		\$150	_____
_____ Corporate Designated Employees	_____	\$ 10	_____
_____ Corporate Partners (See Board Officer)		\$ Varies	_____

CFM Certification Renewal

_____ Annual CFM Renewal		\$25	_____
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Total _____

Payment Method: ___ *Credit Card ___ Check Enclosed ___ Pay at Conference ___ Please Invoice

See back for additional registration instructions

* There will be a minimum \$10 convenience charge per registration for those paying by credit card . If you wish to pay by credit card prior to the conference, please contact Carolyn Schultz at 918.906.3922 or cschultz@cimtel.net.