BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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Are You Ready for the 2020 Virtual Conference?

Janet Meshek, PE, CFM | Conference Chair

Firstly, thank you to all who participated in our online survey regarding the fall conference. As much as we miss interacting with everyone in-person, this year's annual conference will be held entirely online in an effort to keep our OFMA members and families safe and healthy.

The theme for this year's annual conference is: *Are We Ready for The Next Flood?* While this year's conference will be vastly different than years previous, the board is just as committed to providing engaging sessions by subject-matter experts on relevant and timely topics.

Continued on Page 3...

Registration is OPEN

All OFMA members, local Floodplain Administrators, Stormwater Managers, and guest are invited to the 2020 OFMA Annual Conference that will be held VIRTUALLY.

When: Monday, September 21 and Tuesday, September 22, 2020.

Where: https://pheedloop.com/ofmavac2020/site/home/

Register to attend, sponsor, or speak now!

REGISTER NOW



Words from the Chair Brandon Claborn, PE, CFM

It has definitely been a challenging year for all of us at work, at home and in our communities. I hope you and your family members have avoided any significant health issues. My extended family has experienced quarantine due to exposure, hospitalizations and sadly one death that may have been related to the virus. This definitely made everything more difficult for my family.

Just as we thought things were starting to back to something closer to normal, the impacts of the COVID-19 virus returned with increased cases resulting in more restrictions making it more difficult for those of us in the floodplain community to do our jobs. We continue to try to find ways to effective do our jobs and meet the needs of floodplain community.

As I'm sure you have heard by now, the board made the difficult decision to move our Annual Conference in September to a 100% virtual environment. I know we will miss many of the things we love about attending the annual conference in person (riding a mechanical bull anyone?) but we can still focus on learning and sharing best practices with each other.

Our conference committee led by Janet Meshek has been hard at work adapting our format and identifying great speakers. Our virtual Stormwater Quality Conference was a huge success (thank you Carrie Evenson!) and we'll take what we learned from that experience to make our Annual Conference the best we can. There are many changes currently underway and even more ahead and we can't afford get behind.

The current economic conditions both in Oklahoma and nationally will definitely make it more difficult to obtain the funding needed to reduce flood risk in our communities. This may require increased efforts in communicating risk and pursuing grant support for funding projects. These topics will definitely be addressed during the Annual Conference including the new BRIC program and the State Flood Plan led by OWRB.

I hope you can join us for this year's conference, and that the included pictures of us talking and laughing together at the 2019 Annual Conference in Durant will help hold us over until we can meet in-person again.







2020 Virtual Conference

...Continued from Page 1

As usual, Monday morning will kick off with a plenary session including the following highlights:

- Opening Remarks from the Chair
- **OFMA Program and Conference Logistics** •
- Oklahoma National Flood Insurance Program Update
- State Flood Plan Update
- Oklahoma Emergency Management Update •

After a morning break, Jon Phillips, OWRB and For the second part of the morning plenary, Pamela Tom Leatherbee, City of Del City will host workshop Williams, JD, Executive Director, BuildStrong Coalition, sessions on Floodplain 101 and Fundamentals of will speak about the Disaster Recovery Reform Act Code Inspections, respectively. A separate session will and FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and be held on Hazard Mitigation Planning and Assistance, Communities (BRIC) Program. Pamela was the moderated by Mitigation Committee chair, Annie Vest. principal drafter of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act After lunch, Ron Johnson, OFMA Vice Chair, will lead (DRRA), and is one of the most knowledgeable people our annual business meeting. The two workshops on BRIC and DRRA. This session with include a Q&A will be continued after this meeting while a breakout portion.

This plenary will conclude with a FEMA Region VI Update from Tony Robinson, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region VI.

The two afternoon session will include a total of six breakout options, covering the following topics:

- A Panel Discussion With Federal, State, And Local Low Impact Development Officials. **Emergency Management for Floodplain Managers** •
- Floodplain Engineering and Mapping Projects We will end with closing remarks by Ron Johnson, our • Stormwater Quality Topics 2020-2021 chair. •
- Case Studies from Floodplain Managers
- A preliminary agenda may be found on Page 4. Community Rating System (already filled by ISO)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Virtual presentations and interactive workshops If you are interested in presenting or know someone should be consistent with the theme of preparing, who would, please submit an abstract online. We can managing, and recovering from a flood event. accommodate 30 minute presentations including Q+A Potential topics include: time.

- Low Impact Development
- Emergency Management for Floodplain Managers
- Floodplain Engineering and Mapping Projects
- Stormwater Quality Topics
- Case Studies from Floodplain Managers
- Community Rating System (already filled by ISO) reviewers)

reviewers)

Each breakout will include three subject-matter speakers.

Committees and Region Representatives will meet Tuesday morning. These small group meetings will be followed by a plenary group discussion on formulating our policy agenda, led by our Legislative Committee Chair, Tom Leatherbee.

- session on Flood Risk Reduction will be held separately with speakers to be determined.
- After an afternoon break, we will hold the final plenary session, during which Secretary Rachel Cooper, County Engineer, Wagoner County will moderate a session called, Are We Ready For The Next Flood?

You are encouraged to submit topics early to secure your speaking selection. The deadline for submitting abstracts is August 28.

Submit Your Abstract HERE

Are We Ready for the Next Flood?

Preliminary Agenda | 2020 Annual Virtual Conference

8:00 AM	8:20 AM		Opening Remarks from the Chair	Brandon Claborn, P.E., CFM	
8:20 AM	8:40 AM		Summary of OFMA Program and Conference Logistics	Ron Johnson	
8:40 AM	9:00 AM		Oklahoma National Flood Insurance Program Update	Yohanes Sugeng, P.E., CFM	
9:00 AM	9:20 AM	Plenary	State Flood Plan	Julie Cunningham, Oklahoma Water Resources Board	
9:20 AM	9:40 AM		Oklahoma Emergency Management Update	Mark Gower, Director, Oklahoma Emergency Management	
9:40 AM	10:00 AM		FEMA Region VI Update	Tony Robinson, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region VI	
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	BREAK			
10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Plenary	Disaster Recovery Reform Act and FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program	Pamela Williams, JD	
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	BREAK	^	^	
Concurrent Sessions		Track Topic		Speaker	
1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Low Impact Development Topics			
1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Emergency Manag	ement for Floodplain Managers	<u>Want to present?</u> <u>Submit your abstract here!</u>	
1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Floodplain Engineering\ Mapping\Projects			
2:30 PM	3:00 PM	BREAK			
3:00 PM	4:30 PM	Community Rating System			
3:00 PM	4:30 PM	Stormwater Quality	Topics	<u>Want to present?</u> Submit your abstract here!	
3:00 PM	4:30 PM	Case Studies from	Floodplain Managers		
4:30 PM	5:30 PM	New Members Welcome	OFMA Introduction and Socializing	Bill Smith, P.E., CFM	

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Concurrent Sessions		Track Topic		Speaker
			Outreach	Monica Cardin, Janet Meshek
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Committee Meetings	Hazard Mitigation & Stormwater Quality	Annie Vest Carrrie Evenson, Phd, PE, CFM
			Membership and Publicity	Jennifer Wasinger
9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Region Meetings	Region 1	Lincoln Irvine, P.E., CFM
			Region 2	Joe Remondini, P.E. , CFM
			Region 3	James Kuykendall, CFM
			Region 4	Johnny Barron, P.E., CFM
			Region 5	David Smith, CFM
9:30 AM	10:00 AM	Plenary Policy Discussion	Group Discussion Formulating Our Policy Agenda	Tom Leatherbee, CFM, MCP, AIN
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	BREAK		
Concurrent Sessions		Track Topic		Speaker
10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Workshop 1	FP101	Jon Phillips, CFM
10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Workshop 2	Fundamentals of Code Inspections	Tom Leatherbee, CFM, MCP, All
	12:00 PM	Hazard Mitigation Planning and Assistance	Hazard Mitigation Planning	Shanene Thomas – Matt Rollins, <i>Moderator:</i> Annie Vest
10:30 AM			Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs	
			Panel Discussion Q & A: Keys to Securing Mitigation Assistance Funds	
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	BREAK		
1:00 PM	1:30 PM	Business Meeting		Ron Johnson
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Workshop 1	FP101	Jon Phillips, CFM
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Workshop 2	Fundamental of Code Inspections	Tom Leatherbee, CFM, MCP, All
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Flood Risk Reduction		Want to present? Submit your abstract here!
3:00 PM	3:30 PM	BREAK		
3:30 PM	4:45 PM	Plenary	Are we ready for the next flood? Panel Discussion with Federal, State, and Local Officials	Bill Smiley, CFM, CEM Steve Palladino
4:45 PM	5:00 PM		Closing Remarks	Ron Johnson

On-Demand Access to the ASFPM Virtual Conference Now Available



If you didn't get a chance to join us last month for the 2020 ASFPM Virtual Conference, you can now access the entire program on-demand. That's three plenary presentations and 54 concurrent sessions for a total of more than 150 presentations dedicated to all aspects of flooding and floodplain management. Certified Floodplain Managers will earn one continuing education credit (CEC) for each session watched, up to 12 CECs. In commenting on the breadth of content delivered, one attendee said: "The program was broad to cover several tracks to accommodate all people attending. Everyone could get new information for their specialized area or learn about another area!" Registration for the on-demand conference is \$300, which includes access to the entire program until Jan. 31, 2021. <u>Go here to register</u>.



FEMA Announces \$500 Million in Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Fund How to Prepare for the Application Period

Annie Vest | Hazard Mitigation Chair

Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the highly anticipate under the BRIC program. It can take anywhere from BRIC program. Established through the Disaster 9 to 18 months for a plan to be updated and receive Recovery Reform Act of 2018, BRIC builds on FEMA's state and FEMA approval. mission to prepare communities for disasters before they happen, with an added focus on resilience. It is funded through a percentage of funds from every disaster declaration, with the potential to provide \$300-500 million annually and even billions of dollars in years following significant disasters, making it one of the biggest federal efforts on resilience. In its inaugural year, FEMA has made \$500,000,000 in available funding for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to fund risk-reducing, cost-effective disaster mitigation projects and increase community resilience.

BRIC replaces FEMA's current Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program. It allows for more significant investment in pre-disaster mitigation and focuses on improving our nation's infrastructure to withstand natural hazards better. The BRIC priorities are to:

- incentivize public infrastructure projects;
- incentivize projects that mitigate risk to one or more lifelines;
- incentivize projects that incorporate nature-based solutions; and,
- incentivize adoption and enforcement of modern building codes.

What should you do to prepare for the September 30, 2020 opening of the application period?

As with other FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, you must have a FEMAapproved Local or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan by the application deadline (January 29, 2021) and at the time of obligation of grant funds. You can access an interactive map of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan Status here. If your plan is expired or soon to expire,

On August 4, 2020, FEMA released the Notice of Hazard Mitigation Planning is an eligible project type

0 Identify your project and the scoping needs. BRIC is an amazing opportunity to marry up mitigation with vour capital improvements strategy. Many of the infrastructure projects identified for future funding are likely eligible for BRIC. Applications submitted to FEMA must meet the minimum eligibility criteria for all submittals. All applications submitted must include, but are not limited to, a scoping narrative (scope of work, work schedule, and detailed cost estimate) and forms. All mitigation project sub-applications must also include proof of cost-effectiveness, feasibility and effectiveness, documentation of compliance with Environmental and Historic Preservation laws. If there is not enough information to apply, consider applying for Project Scoping funds (formerly Advance Assistance under PDM), under the new Capability and Capacity-Building(C&CB) category to develop hazard mitigation projects, including but not limited to:

- Engineering design and feasibility actions;
- Collect data for benefit-cost analyses, environmental compliance, and other program requirements;

Conduct engineering design and feasibility studies for larger or complex community drainage projects or critical facility retrofits (such as for Phased Projects);

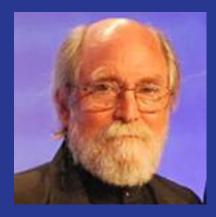
Conduct hydrologic and hydraulic studies for unmapped flood zones or approximate A zones areas where communities propose to submit hazard mitigation projects;

Identify your cost-share requirement. Generally, the cost share for this program is 75 percent

federal / 25 percent non-federal. This means hazard event, time and time again, and is ready to federal funding is available for up to 75 percent of scope a long-term solution. Whatever the case may eligible costs. The remaining 25 percent of eligible be, start where you are. BRIC is the opportunity to costs must be derived from non-federal sources. change what our communities are today and be better Small, impoverished communities are eligible for tomorrow. We cannot, in any way, shape or form an increase in cost-share up to 90 percent federal respond our way out of every vulnerability. Through / 10 percent non-federal. The definition of a small, BRIC, we can implement mitigation and build safe, impoverished community is a community of 3,000 or sustainable, and equitable communities. fewer individuals identified by the Applicant that is For more information on the BRIC program visit economically disadvantaged, with residents having https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/buildingan average per capita annual income not exceeding resilient-infrastructure-communities 80 percent of the national per capita income, based on best available data.

Eligible project types include, but are not limited to those identified in the FY15 Hazard Mitigation Finally, what can we do with the money? This the Assistance Guidance and Addendum found here time to be creative. Think outside the box. Think https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazardabout the project that can change your community! mitigation-assistance-guidance-and-addendum-fy15 What does innovation look like in your community? Perhaps it is incorporating low impact development Stay tuned for future updates from the OFMA into your stormwater management program. Maybe Mitigation Committee at the Annual Conference. it's evaluating the adoption and implementation of building codes that reduce risk. Or maybe your community is tired of being impacted by the same





Rollin' on the River River Parks Authority Remediation in Tulsa

Rev. W. B. Smith, P.E. CFM | DRT

In May-June 2019, the Arkansas River through Tulsa experienced a historic flood event. While the peak river flow was not as high as the 3 to 4-day peak in 1986, the high flow flooding in the Special Flood Hazard Area lasted for over 51 days, totally saturating the banks of the river. When the river levels dropped, the banks of the Arkansas River along the River Parks Authority trails sloughed and failed due to rapid drawdown and weakened conditions due to saturation.

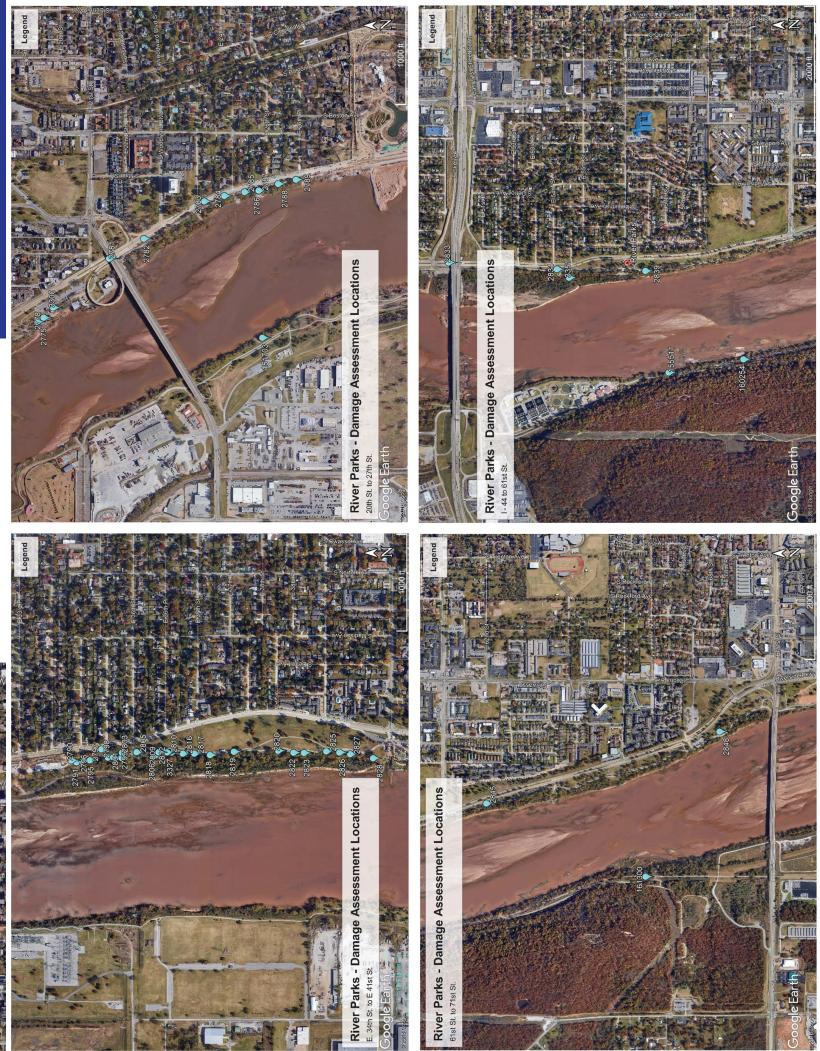
With limited funding for repair, the River Parks Authority proceeded with evaluation, design, and is in the construction phase of several "high" priority projects that affected public safety due to trail damage and slope damage adjacent to the trail, along with several park amenities.

This article will address not only the process and procedure for the remediation of the park facilities, but also the ongoing learning experience of the FEMA Public Assistance Program and reimbursement that is being approved – in a much-limited manner – as compared with the actual costs incurred; in contradiction to the original anticipated reimbursement.

The images on this spread indicate the River Park areas that were impacted by the flood event.

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Rollin' on the River

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The total sites identified were over 87 locations. With the limited funding, even considering FEMA Public Assistance, the sites were divided into four categories – High Priority (Public Safety and Trail Damage), High Priority – Public Safety with no Trail Damage, Medium Priority, and Low Priority – Volunteer/Staff.

Immediately following the receding of the floodwaters, hundreds of volunteers came to support River Parks Authority in their immediate cleanup efforts. Debris, sand, trash, downed trees, etc. were removed from the park and trail areas all along both sides of the river. Once this cleanup was initially completed, the River Parks Trail system and portions of the parks could be re-opened – before the Covid-19 breakout.

There was a trail run scheduled shortly after the flood so some emergency repairs were completed on the trail.

This is an example of undermining of the trail by stormwater running outside of the stormwater pipe and eroding the supporting foundation of the trail.



The remainder of the projects were prioritized for design, bidding, and construction activity.

The first priority of construction remediations were four High Priority locations that directly affected public safety and damage to the trails.

Area 34 – Site No. 1 and No. 2 – 68th and Riverside Drive – Trail partially collapsed, bank scouring, etc. This site was designed, bid and construction was completed during the week of May 11, 2020. The final project costs were \$317,426.00.

Area 35 – Feldman Deck – This site is near 57th and Riverside Drive and damage resulted from bank scouring and undermining the existing Feldman Deck. This site was designed, bid, and construction was completed the week of April 20th. The final cost is \$265,949.80.

Area 28 – Site No. 1 and No. 2 – 41st Street Plaza (QT Center) – Site No. 1 - Part of river bank sloughed, and the Pump Vault collapsed which provides water for the splash pads in the Park area. Site No. 2 - Part of peninsula was scoured and river bank stabilization moved. These sites were designed, bid and construction is underway. Site No. 2 work is completed. Site No. 1 work was begun, but the contractor is waiting for the new vault to be fabricated and delivered (Anticipated mid-June 2020). Work is anticipated to be completed in late July or early August – weather and river conditions pending. This project cost was bid at \$496,100.00. This Project is expected to underrun bid costs.







Area 1W-3W – These are three trail sites on the even when that property is mowed and maintained West Bank Trail near Turkey Mountain. Area 1W is as part of a public-use area. Only when riverbank a bank scouring and trail failure area, Area 2W is a erosion clearly undermines or imminently threatens bank scouring and trail failure area and Area 3W is an park capital improvements will funding assistance overtopping of the trail with bank stabilization damage be considered. "Pre-flood" means that if soil and due to an undersized culvert. This work was publicly vegetation are washed away along the riverbank. FEMA's repair obligation - if any - is limited to bid in the amount of \$331,002.35. Notice to Proceed was issued on April 22, 2020, and work is now almost replacing washed-away soil unless the severity of the slope at the damage site is so great that soil completed with only punch list items remaining. The alone cannot reasonably repair the damage. In Bid documents were revised by Addendum and the majority of the shale on the Berm at the West Bank such cases, FEMA may make some allowance for Soccer Club has been transported to Area 1W and "mitigation" costs, but not at the 75% reimbursement 2W for bank fill. The rip-rap is also being removed rate, and must be pre-approved by OEM. Much of and relocated to the bank slopes on Areas 1W and the damage in River Parks was deemed ineligible 2W. There was remediation needed for the West for FEMA assistance due to being unimproved Bank Trail and a Request for Contractor Proposal was natural riverbank. been issued for Trail Repair (patching or replacement (2) River Parks' initial post-flood damage assessment sections, cleaning, and re-striping). All material was assigned estimates for all damage sites, including removed from the Berm by May 20 or 21 which was those that were inspected by FEMA and eliminated ahead of the May 25th FEMA deadline. The West Bank as ineligible for aid. For all damages, FEMA trail is now reopened.

FEMA Disaster Assistance

FEMA's disaster aid program offers recipients a maximum of 75% toward FEMA-approved costs to return eligible damaged property to pre-flood condition. Oklahoma Emergency Management (OEM) contributes 12.5% of what FEMA approves and the balance is the responsibility of the recipient organization. The caveats of "eligible" and "pre-flood condition" are very meaningful to RPA's efforts to recoup damage costs on two levels:

(1) FEMA policy does not allow funding for flood- *Continued on Page 12...* caused erosion to unimproved natural riverbank,

(2) River Parks' initial post-flood damage assessment assigned estimates for all damage sites, including those that were inspected by FEMA and eliminated as ineligible for aid. For all damages, FEMA personnel determine a cost allowed for repairs as determined by FEMA's support group. Although RPA had one unique single-source vendor repair in the 41st Plaza fountains pump vault, all other repair costs were determined by FEMA materials and/or labor cost schedules that are, for the most part, standardized across the U.S. This practice often resulted in cost estimates that were lower than RPA estimates. Wherever applicable, RPA has disputed FEMA costs that we considered unreasonable. In some cases, changes were made, in others they were not.

Rollin' on the River

...Continued from Page 11

Staff members from RPA worked on FEMA disaster recoveries for River Parks in 1986 and 2007. The staff have commented that FEMA's practices for the 2019 flood are far more complex and inflexible than for the previous disasters. One staff member, who retired as RPA's Park Superintendent in 2009 to take a position with the City of Superior, Colorado, was on the front lines of addressing Boulder County's flood disaster of 2013 with FEMA. He reports FEMA procedures are much

more difficult now than then. It is speculated that the large number and severity of other U.S. natural disasters, along with incidents of fraud by some of those disaster assistance recipients, have made FEMA's policies and procedures more stringent.

Whatever the reason, it has been made abundantly clear that FEMA and OEM are here to assist, but not to "make us whole" for the damages suffered in the flood.

The flood repairs have remained a high priority for more than a year now.

Recap of Work To Date FEMA procedure assigns a Project Disaster Manager (PDMG) with

whom all involved staff members met weekly until COVID-19 reduced those meetings. RPA is now on the third PDMG, as FEMA reassigns its personnel based on other needs around the U.S. RPA has also communicated with the two layers of management above the PDMG and with the OEM Public Assistance Coordinator and OEM Recovery Program Director on an as-needed basis to appeal some of FEMA's funding decisions that we considered unfavorable.



uring of Downstream side of 1 ail due to undersize d trail and shoulder wide

After documenting all flood damages from large The 2019 flood was the worst that River Parks Authority to small in the initial aftermath of the flood, the total has experienced in its 46 years, due to the volume of water and particularly to the duration. In an effort to be number of projects has been pared down over time, with many small projects combined into a single larger as thorough as possible, we documented damage sites FEMA project and others ruled ineligible. large and small. The approach was to estimate repairs on the basis of work that would mitigate damage from RPA has completed two major east bank repairs, one at future flood events, in a number of cases suggesting 68th (Area 34) where the trail was undercut and one at armoring the river bank with cable/concrete or rip-rap. 58th (Area 35) where the Feldman deck was undercut. This made sense in the immediate aftermath, before The third east bank site, 41st Street Plaza (Area FEMA was on the scene and RPA was apprised of 28), is in progress, and is expected to be completed their current policies. The unintended consequence in late August 2020. That site includes replacing the of the "future damage mitigation approach" was to ruined mechanical pump vault for the 41st splash pad significantly inflate expectations for financial aid the and repairs to bank erosion that contributed to the federal government might provide. That reality set in destruction of the vault by flood waters. The new vault quickly as RPA began meetings with FEMA officials. has been delivered and is installed. Electrical, controls, starting with a detailed vetting to determine if the RPA and piping are in progress. was even an eligible aid recipient.

On the west bank, work is nearing completion of trail The initial estimates for over 50 individual damage sites damage repairs at three locations (Areas1W-3W) ranged from \$8M to \$12M, a number predicated on the along the base of Turkey Mountain. In addition, all RPA need to competitively bid multiple sites, engineering repair contractors were required to make use of the and design for some locations, and labor and materials material with which the emergency temporary berm costs to repair some of the lesser damages. FEMA was constructed at the West Bank Sports Complex dismissed much of what was estimated as outside to mitigate flood damage to businesses and homes the scope of FEMA's policies. FEMA personnel also west of Elwood Avenue. The contractors used that created confusion by first requiring that each damage material for fill, resulting in cost savings for the repair location be cataloged as a separate site and then later projects and avoiding the need to hire and pay for a reversing course and more logically combining multiple separate contractor to remove and dispose of the berm sites in the same general area into single projects. material. All work is completed at this location. A design package is being prepared for future bidding for the Work is continuing on a plan to remediate as many re-construction of the original berm in the location of small sites as possible along the East and West Banks the temporary berm that was breaching in the 1974 of the Arkansas River before another large flood event or 1977 flood along the original alignment. This also comes and continues to devastate the banks and River includes the required Section 404 Permitting. Parks Trail System.



FEMA Suspends In-Person Training and Education through October 1, 2020

FEMA ADVISORY

FEMA's top priority remains the health and safety of FEMA employees, instructors, students, and visitors on campus, without compromising instruction quality and the student experience. Therefore, FEMA will suspend inperson training and education at both the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) and Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) through at least October 1. FEMA will continue to monitor the coronavirus pandemic and communicate updates or changes in conditions that may affect reopening of FEMA campuses.

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