

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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2021 Spring Technical Workshop

April 1, 2021 | VIRTUAL

We are going virtual one more time in compliance with government regulations and to help keep our membership safe and healthy. We look forward to getting together in person later this year for the summer and fall conferences!

You will receive an email on Friday with the link to registration for the Spring Technical Workshop. We are using the same platform as for the 2020 Fall Conference. Please go online to register using the registration link. All registrants will receive an invoice and there will be an option to pay by credit card. If your agency would prefer to pay by check, the invoices can be used to submit payment to OFMA as per instructions on the invoice.

The workshop fees will be \$50 for members and \$75 for non-members. CEU certificates will be emailed to the participants at the end of the workshop. Hope to see April 1!

Call for Presenters

OFMA is inviting speakers to present at our 2021 Spring Technical Workshop to be held virtually this spring. Topics of discussion at the basic or advanced level should relate to one of the following:

Rural Floodplain Management, GIS, Hydrology and Hydraulics

Hazard Mitigation, Risk Reduction, Case Studies;

Community Rating System, Recent Changes, Cycle Visits, Case Studies

Stormwater Quality Issues or Projects, Green Infrastructure, Watershed Studies, Stormwater Research

Speakers will be allocated up to 25 minutes, followed by a five-minute question/answer period, but longer presentations may be accommodated. If you are interested in presenting or know someone who would, please submit an abstract to Carrie Evenson at carrie.evenson@normanok.gov. Selection of speakers will be made by March 6. You are encouraged to submit topics early to secure your speaking selection. Speakers will be required to register for the workshop. Any questions please call Carrie Evenson at 405.329.2524.



Words from the Chair

Ron Johnson, CFM | OFMA Chair

As the days get warmer and we look forward to enjoying the outdoors, please remember that spring time weather in Oklahoma sometimes brings us a lot of rain and a potential for flooding.

Flooding is the most common and widespread weather hazard in the United States. Most flood dangers and deaths are caused by flash floods.

Flash floods usually result from intense storms dropping large amounts of rain within a brief period. The two key elements are rainfall intensity and duration, but topography, soil conditions and ground cover play important roles as well.

Flash floods occur with little or no warning and can reach peak flow within a few minutes. Waters from flash floods move with great force and velocity, sweeping away bridges and possibly washing out roads that are no longer safe for traveling on.

So in closing, as we enjoy the great state of Oklahoma and all it has to offer, let's remember to be weather aware.

Virtual OWRB Training

OWRB is now offering Floodplain Management 101 training virtually. Due to travel and distancing constraints, OWRB will continue to offer FPM 101 online on the last Tuesday of every month until further notice. Three CECs are available for attendees. FPAs in need of six hours for state accreditation, either new or renewal, have until June 30, 2021 to become current for the year. Sign up at owrb.ok.gov or contact Miranda.Thomas@owrb.ok.gov for more information.

Next class: Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021

OWRB will be conducting an abbreviated eight-hour virtual version of FEMA's popular L-273 course March 15-18, 2021. The course will be administered in two-hour units, once daily for four consecutive days. Contact Miranda.Thomas@owrb.ok.gov for more information.



2021 Spring Technical Workshop

Preliminary Agenda

April 1 | 8:30 am — 5:00 pm
Virtual via Phedloop and Zoom

WHAT'S NEW IN YOUR FLOODPLAIN?



8:00 AM — 8:30 AM	Sign In and Sounds Check
8:30 AM — 8:45 AM	Welcome and Introduction
8:45 AM — 9:45 AM	What's New at OWRB?
9:45 AM — 10:00 AM	break
10:00 AM — 11:00 AM	What's New at FEMA?
11:00 AM — 11:45 AM	Floodplain Permitting Panel Discussion
11:45 AM — 12:45 PM	lunch
12:45 PM — 2:15 PM	Afternoon Breakout Session 1
2:15 PM — 2:30 PM	break
2:30 PM — 3:00 PM	Afternoon Breakout Session 2
3:00 PM — 4:00 PM	Risk Rating 2.0
4:00 PM — 4:45 PM	National Weather Service
4:45 PM — 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks

2021 SAVE THE DATES

2021 Spring Technical
Workshop

April 1, 2021

VIRTUAL

Hard Rock Hotel and Casino
777 W. Cherokee St.
Gatoosa, OK

2021 Stormwater Quality
Technical Workshop

July 14, 2021

Moore-Norman Technology Center
4701 12th Ave. NW
Norman, OK 73069

2021 OFMA Annual
Conference

September 20-22, 2021

Embassy Suites Norman Hotel &
Conference Center
2501 Conference Drive
Norman, OK 73069

Keep up-to-date with OFMA events by visiting okflood.org.



State Cooperating Technical Partners Program Gives Project Update

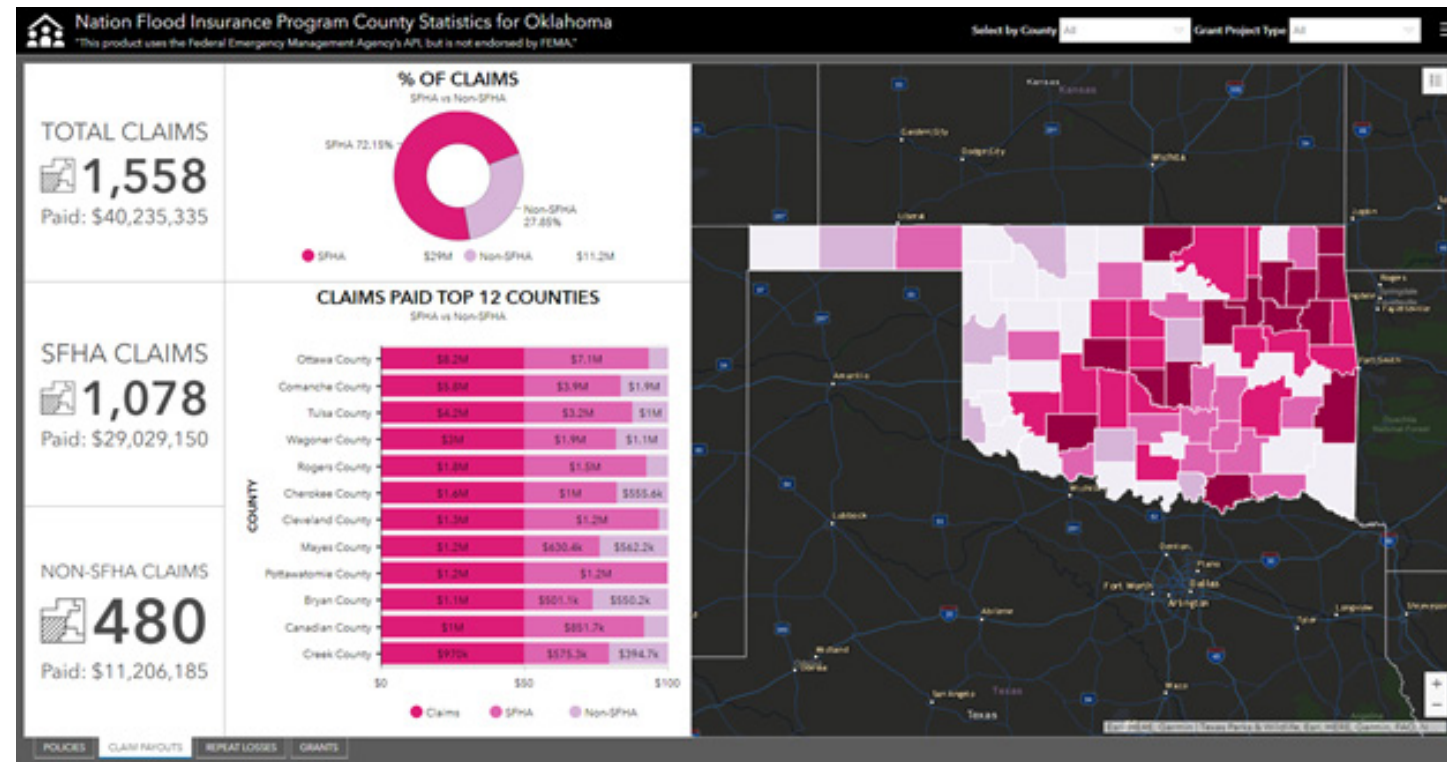
Aaron Milligan, CFM | OWRB

Aaron Milligan with OWRB and Brandon Claborn with Meshek and Associates recently participated in a FEMA CTP Brown Bag Webinar on their CTP Special Project.

The project is part of the FEMA CTP Program which allows states to select special flood risk outreach efforts to help FEMA reach their strategic goals. This project involved conducting an assessment of flood risk data needs and sources with the end goal of providing information to community officials and citizens to spur greater NFIP participation by communities, flood insurance subscription by citizens, adoption of higher standards and greater investments in flood mitigation actions.

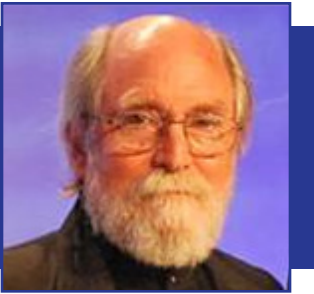
A key piece of the project was development of a digital dashboard which can present information on local flood insurance policies, claims, repeat losses and grant awards. This data can be shown and summarized for an individual community, per county or statewide. The dashboard can also be used to help non-NFIP participating entities make informed decisions about NFIP participation and flood mitigation planning by learning how similar entities are benefiting from the program.

Public meetings are planned for spring 2021 to demonstrate the dashboard, promote the NFIP and review available community flood risk information.



OFMA DRT Corner

Rev. W. B. "Bill" Smith, PE, CFM | OFMA DRT Coordinator



There are several updates for the Disaster Response Team (DRT), mostly national issues.

We are working with the State of West Virginia to help them set up a DRT Model. They are in FEMA Region III. Our DRT program has been sent to them and I may travel to West Virginia to help them start the program after the COVID crisis has subsided.

We are working with ASFPM on a national Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DART) playbook to help other state associations create similar DRTs to the ones in Oklahoma and Louisiana. There is also a RAFT Team in Illinois. There are a lot of issues that need to be resolved due to a wide variety of mutual aid agreements and enabling legislation between states. Some states allow "wide-open" mutual aid (volunteers, non-profits, etc.). Other states limit mutual aid to first responses or have strict protocol which must be followed (approval, contracts, reimbursement, liability, etc.)

I am again soliciting community pre-sign-ups for the Spring 2021 flood season, so if you community has not signed up, please contact me and I will send you a draft letter that needs to be signed and returned. I also will send you a draft resolution that needs to be processed by your governing body prior to the letter being signed.

A reminder to all communities – it is still winter and the spring rains are not here yet. I recommend that you issue a Floodplain Development Permit to your community to allow your public works or other field staff to clean out the channels and culverts before the spring rains. You cannot re-grade the channels, but you can remove debris, accumulated sediment, trees, scrub shrub, etc. just by issuing yourself a "maintenance" permit. I suggest your do this each year on January 1st.

Finally, I have had several questions about DRT Training. With COVID and our on-line conferences it looks right now that it will be the Fall 2021 Annual Conference before we will be together to do any training. However, I remind you that we are available to assist any community at any time with training, questions, or support. Please contact either myself or Tom Leatherbee in Del City if you have needs for your community.





The Resilient Rural America Project

Johnny Barron | OFMA Region 4 Representative

Rural America covers 72% of the nation but has 15% of the population. Fewer people means fewer resources for rural governments. Consequently, rural governments struggle harder to provide/maintain roads, bridges and utilities. It also means, rural governments are less likely to have funds for building officials and community planners. For these reasons, rural Floodplain Administrators (FPAs) generally have less support than their urban counterparts.

Rural FPAs may have a new tool at their disposal. The Resilient Rural

America Project is a free online training program that is being developed to help rural counties and small towns become more resilient to extreme weather and changing climate conditions.

This effort is primarily funded by the Climate Resilience Fund, Harmonic International & the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Program Office. Other agencies involved in the production include the Model Forest Policy Program, ICMA, GEOS Institute and EcoAdapt.

I would be lying if I said I had heard of any of these agencies before now. At first glance, the purpose of this new project seems to be a response to global warming. Don't let that discourage you from looking into this. I see great potential to help FPAs increase risk awareness and promote flood hazard mitigations.

I have registered to begin the training myself but have not gotten very far into the course materials. So far, it seems that there will be emphasis on risk assessments, comprehensive land use planning and public outreach. Module

#1 was released in 2020 and is available now. Module #2 in development and has not yet been released but they are looking for beta testers. It is expected to be launched in 2022.

I'm excited by what I have seen so far and I encourage rural FPAs to look into it.

Benefits

I see several benefits of this program:

1. Training for Rural Leaders – this program is free to anyone from rural America who wants to learn about increasing resiliency. It is web-based training that commissioner or councilmen can do at their own pace from home.
2. Professional Development – FPAs will get weeks of training on assessing vulnerability to

natural disasters and land use planning. Even if you are not successful in getting your County Commissioners to adopt a Comprehensive Land Use Plan, you will increase your professional qualifications.

3. Reduced Risk - The biggest benefit will be to the land owners, residents and businesses of your community who will should see reduced damage to property from flooding.

Drawbacks

Drawbacks of the project seem to include:

1. Time Commitment – Module No. 1 requires 4 hours per week for 4-6 weeks to complete. Many of our commissioners are busy people and this might be a deterrent to some.

2. Not for everyone – This program seems to be designed for those communities looking to develop or update a Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). If your County Commissioners are interested in a CLUP. This free training may be an easy sell. If they don't see a need for a CLUP, it's less likely they will make the effort to complete this course.

The website for the Resilient Rural America Project is www.mfpp.org/rrap/.

Rural FPAs in Oklahoma would likely benefit from this free training. If you can find the time, you should look into it. I'm going to.



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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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