

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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2023 Stormwater Quality Workshop Update

Brandon Claborn PE, CFM - OFMA Conference Co-Chair

I was privileged to attend this year's Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop on July 19th at the Embassy Suites in Oklahoma City. It was great to see so many people in attendance, even more than last year! The event started with an opening plenary and welcome from Lincoln Irvine PE, CFM, OFMA Chair, setting the tone for an exciting day. Then, Jade Jones, Clinton Johnson, and Jordan Peebles provided updates from COSWA and GCSA, sharing how those regional organizations are allowing MS4s to share knowledge and leverage resources.

The plenary session continued with Tonya White from the Oklahoma Water Resource Board speaking about Non-Traditional OWRB Funding Solutions for Your System. That was followed by a Q/A financial assistance panel featuring Pamela Bensley from USDA, Kim Jenson from OEM, Lindsay Roland from ORWA, Candy Thompson, PE from ODEQ, and Julie Hudgins from Communities Unlimited, Inc.

Attendees enjoyed a buffet lunch with ample time for networking.

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Words from the Chair

Lincoln Irvine PE, CFM | Senior Project Engineer | Benham



Lincoln currently serves as a roadway & hydraulics/hydrology engineer for a vast array of publicly funded transportation projects. He is experienced in providing drainage solutions and engineering designs for various ODOT and county projects and has been recruited specifically for challenging drainage projects. As part of a multi-disciplinary engineering design team for a large scale project, he served as a drainage lead for the drainage design team. Lincoln is also proficient in analyzing hydrology and hydraulics, mapping floodplains, evaluating storm water systems, storm water treatment, and permitting.

Lincoln has a degree in civil engineering from the University of Utah. He is a Professional Engineer in Utah, California, and Oklahoma and a Certified Floodplain Manager in Oklahoma.

I'm writing this after the tremendous success of this year's Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop. Having worked on it last year, I can fully appreciate all the time and effort that was involved in pulling this off.

I would like to recognize Morgan Lozoya for all her hard work in putting the conference together. I was impressed by the sheer number of attendees at this conference; so many that we had to find more chairs for people to sit on in the plenary session.

On October 28, 2022, the Board voted to establish a committee to investigate the benefits and challenges of incorporating the very important Stormwater Quality group of professionals into OFMA. After the committee studied the impacts of such a move, it became apparent that a significant amount of work would be involved.

Organization changes include amending the OFMA constitution, logo, mascot, tagline, Mission statement, vision, and OFMA objectives.

In addition, much discussion has been had about the name of an organization that now serves Stormwater as an important

OFSMA
OFMA
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component of its mission, and the majority of the committee believes that adding "S" to the name is important for inclusiveness. However, this has not been a straight forward process. Many thoughts and ideas have come to the board members to narrow and aid in the selection process.

My conclusion is to let those members of OFMA who have dedicated so much of their time to the organization decide on a name that best represents the organization's future goals and identity.



Continued from page 1

The afternoon started with breakout sessions in three track topics: Construction Inspections, moderated by Morgan Lozoya, General Topics, Carrie Evenson, and Dr. Jason Vogel, covering Advanced Research Topics.

Randy Neprash from NMSA (National Municipal Stormwater Alliance) presented via Teams about TMDLs and MS4 permittees in Minnesota and some of the challenges when obtaining permits. He also shared tools and guidance for those permittees that were interested in making the process smoother. Randy further shared about NMSA, including recent activities and products, policy updates, and the future of the program.

Closing out the workshop was Myles Mungle from ODEQ. Myles first presented DEQ updates regarding the OKR04, OKR05, and OKR10 permits and closed with updates regarding TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) implementation. He also shared sections of TMDL implementation guidance documents that should be available later this year.

All in all, it was a truly informative and engaging event. If you still need to include a reference on a slide, presentations can be viewed/downloaded from our website at <https://okflood.org/2023-stormwater-quality-technical-workshop/>.

A special thank you to SWQ Chair Morgan Lozoya and those who helped make this year's workshop successful. Thanks also are due to Carolyn Schultz and Michelle Gourd for the many things they did to prepare for the conference and for running registration at the event.

Registration Open!



SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2023

River Spirit Casino Resort
8330 Riverside Pkwy, Tulsa, OK 74137

OKFLOOD.ORG

Visit our website for conference details and sponsorship opportunities.

<https://okflood.org/2023-annual-conference/>



OFMA Vice-Chair

Annie Vest, CFM | Mitigation and Disaster Planning Lead
Freese & Nichols

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding is now available, presenting an excellent chance for us to proactively address and mitigate flood-related risks. The HMGP, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is a post-disaster grant initiative designed to assist communities in implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures. It aims to reduce the impact of future disasters and enhance community resilience against flooding and other natural hazards.

Available Funding Opportunities

- The HMGP funding offers various opportunities for floodplain managers and local authorities to develop and implement projects that prioritize hazard mitigation. Some eligible projects include:
- Flood Control Infrastructure: Constructing or enhancing levees, floodwalls, and other flood control structures to manage floodwaters effectively.
- Elevation and Retrofitting: Elevating critical structures above the base flood elevation and retrofitting existing buildings to minimize flood damage.
- Acquisition and Relocation: Purchasing flood-prone properties and relocating residents to safer areas, reducing exposure to flood risks.
- Natural Floodplain Restoration: Restoring natural floodplains and wetlands to absorb excess floodwaters, enhancing ecological balance.
- Early Warning Systems: Investing in advanced technology for improved flood forecasting and early warning systems.
- Public Outreach and Education: Initiating educational programs to raise awareness about flood risks and promote flood-safe practices among residents.

How to Apply for HMGP Funding?

The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (ODEMHS) is currently accepting Notices of Intent (NOI) from communities interested in accessing these funds. While the exact total funding amount remains undisclosed, applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. To maximize their chances of receiving funding, interested parties must adhere to FEMA's guidelines and, at minimum, submit cost-effective, technically feasible projects identified in a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan. NOIs can be submitted to ODEMHS online at ok.emgrants.com. Contact Kim Jenson, the Interim State Hazard Mitigation Officer, with questions at kim.jenson@oem.ok.gov.

Things to Consider Before You Apply

To be eligible for funding, communities must have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan from FEMA. However, it's important to note that funding is limited, and the exact amount available is unknown. Without this information, it is difficult to determine if applying for funds is worth the effort. My recommendation is to submit a NO. If your NOI is approved, work with the state to gauge your chances of receiving funding from FEMA. If the likelihood is low and your budget to invest in upfront project scoping is low, it may be best to wait until August for non-disaster grant Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) during FEMA's Resilience Month.

Helpful Mitigation Resources

[Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide | FEMA.gov](#)

[Summary of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance \(HMA\) Programs | FEMA.gov](#)

[Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program | FEMA.gov](#)

[Resources for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program | FEMA.gov](#)

[Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities | FEMA.gov](#)

[Resource List for the BRIC Grant Program | FEMA.gov](#)

FEMA Releases Innovative New Resources for Advancing Equity Throughout the Nation

Over the past year, FEMA published several innovative equity and hazard mitigation planning resources. These include RNPN's Building Alliances for Climate Action, the Inspiration Book: Arts and Experiential Learning, and the Guide to Expanding Mitigation: Making the Connection to Older Adults.

Each of these resources works to advance equity in its own way. For instance, the RNPN's [Building Alliances for Climate Action](#) calls for prioritizing resilience benefits for communities at the forefront of climate change. These often include underserved and socially vulnerable communities. These communities may face higher risks than other populations in a region. Building Alliances for Climate Action also highlights partnerships across the whole community, such as faith-based and neighborhood groups. These types of partnerships advance equity; they support historically underserved communities. They are key to building the social capital needed to address the impacts of climate change.

[The Inspiration Book: Arts and Experiential Learning](#) shows FEMA and partners how to engage with communities in non-technical ways. This makes risk information more accessible to a broader audience. The book looks at how arts and experiential learning projects can raise awareness, share knowledge, connect a community, and engage partners. The resource dives into the steps for starting an art and experiential learning project. It also gives examples of successful projects.

FEMA released its Guide to [Expanding Mitigation: Making the Connection to Older Adults](#), created in partnership with the AARP. It advocates for more collaboration in resilience planning for older adults. Building resilience must include learning about the needs and concerns of older adults. It must also include partnering with organizations that work with them. The guide highlights the value of creating accessible communities for all ages. It recommends ways for community officials to include older adults in efforts to reduce risk through hazard mitigation.

FEMA is making a major push to advance equity in hazard mitigation planning. These resources are just the start of an agency-wide shift to improve resilience for all communities, including underserved and socially vulnerable populations.

FEMA's New "Safer Communities" Coloring Book Series Teaches Hazard Awareness to Youth

FEMA published two coloring books for children in its Safer Communities Series: [My Rain Garden](#) and [My Safe Yard](#). The series teaches children about flood risk and disaster mitigation using age-appropriate language. The new coloring books engage kids aged 4 to 7 about how to make their homes more resistant to damage from natural hazards.

The coloring books are available in both English and Spanish. They are filled with illustrations that reflect diverse characters and homes. Each book also has a short narrative related to each topic. It also has a glossary of terms to help children build their resilience vocabulary.



The books also provide directions for environmental learning activities. For example, the My Rain Garden coloring book describes how to go on nature hunts and build a rain garden. The My Safe Yard coloring book also contains fun activities, including templates for creating Storm Superhero masks. This book teaches children about how severe wind and flooding can cause damage inside and outside their homes.

The Safer Communities coloring books have been shared nationwide. This includes the Community Education and Outreach program and hazard awareness events at hardware stores and elementary schools. The books are a big hit at events like TEDx MileHigh and the NAHB International Builders' Show. In addition, local community flood mitigation initiatives used them with their engagement strategies.

For more information, visit FEMA.gov or <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management>.

You can also contact Dustin Busse, Communications and Outreach Coordinator, at dustin.busse@fema.dhs.gov.



FEMA Map Coordination Meetings

Jason Tutkowski, CFM | Floodplain Management Specialist and CTP Coordinator OWRB



Love County Map Coordination Meeting.

on any changes in community boundaries, areas of expected growth, and areas that have been affected by recent disasters. FEMA experts, Oklahoma floodplain management staff, local officials, and stakeholders were all able to collaborate and discuss ways to improve the data and how it could be used to streamline floodplain development permitting in the counties and communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), as well as how non-participating communities could use the information to build resiliency.

Attending map coordination meetings such as these are a great way to get involved in floodplain mapping efforts in your community and learn more about the resources and tools available to reduce flood risk.

If you have any questions or comments, you can email Jason at jason.tutkowski@owrb.ok.gov.

FEMA Releases New Elevation Certificate and Dry Floodproofing Certificate

The new Elevation Certificate and new Dry Floodproofing Certificate have been approved and should be used going forward through 06/30/2026. Also included with the July 7 announcement from FEMA's Flood Insurance Directorate is an attachment providing updated underwriting guidance on how to use the revised EC form for first-floor height.

In addition, we have been informed that for CRS reviews, they will strictly use the date the form is official. So, if a surveyor signs it on, or after, July 7, 2023, it must be the new form, or it will be marked as an Error on their EC. They held to that line during the last EC transition period, and they will do the same this time as well. This is based on FEMA guidance in the past and a confirmation of this policy again as they went through the review process of this new EC.

You can read more [here](#) or visit <https://nfipservices.floodsmart.gov/sites/default/files/w-23006.pdf>

FEMA Region 6 Risk MAP Program team leadership, along with AECOM, a member of the Compass Production and Technical Services Joint Venture, led map coordination meetings in Latimer, Pushmataha, and Love Counties on July 11th, 12th, and 13th. Separate meetings were held for each county – one each in the towns of Wilburton, Antlers, and Marietta – to discuss the Base Level Engineering (BLE) to Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) mapping update process, address questions about flood hazard data, and understand current flood risk.

Attendees were given a run-through of FEMA's Base Flood Elevation to Flood Insurance Rate Map Viewer (B2F) and encouraged to provide input to FEMA

New FPM 101 Location in Langley, OK

OWRB added another Floodplain Management 101 class to the 2023 training calendar. It will be held at GRDA in Langley, OK. 6 CECs will be awarded, and it's one of only a handful of opportunities left to earn credits before CFM renewal time at the end of September. The class in September 12, 2023, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and is located at GRDA Eco Center. 420 HWY 28. Langley, OK 74350.

To register, contact cheyanne.reynolds@owrb.ok.gov. For additional training opportunities please see the schedule below.

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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](#). Be sure to save completed course certificates for accreditation purposes and send a copy to [Cheyanne Reynolds](#).

Course Descriptions

FPM 101: Introduction to Floodplain Management provides attendees with the most up-to-date information on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), major floodplain management concepts, maps and studies, ordinance administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance.

FPM 202: Beyond the Basics offers a concentration on one or more specific areas of floodplain management, such as ordinance administration, permitting, outreach, elevation certificates, mitigation, substantial damage/substantial improvement, post-disaster activities, mapping and determinations, and violations and enforcement.

OFMA Special Topics in Floodplain Management are hosted by Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association staff and feature a wide array of speakers and topics, including floodplain management ethics, storm water management, flood resilience, hazard mitigation planning, post-disaster events, and rural floodplain management.

[Register for a class today!](#)

Space is limited. Courses, dates, and locations are subject to change or cancellation.

OWRB Courses

Aug 15, 2023	FPM 101	Central Park Community Center	1500 S Main St, Broken Arrow, OK 74012
Aug 22, 2023	FPM 101	OHP Training Center	3600 N MLK Blvd, OKC, OK 73111
Sep 12, 2023	FPM 101	GRDA Eco Center	420 HWY 28, Langley, OK 74350
Oct 17, 2023	FPM 202	OHP Training Center	3600 N MLK Blvd, OKC, OK 73111
Nov 14, 2023	FPM 202	Eastern OK University	1802 College Ave, McAlester, OK 74501

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Editor, The BFE | PO Box 8101 | Tulsa, OK 74101

Chair

Lincoln Irvine, PE, CFM
Benham Design LLC
14000 Quail Springs
Parkway, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73134
405.478.5353
lincoln.irvine@benham.com

Region I Representative

Michael Kimbro, PE, CFM
ODOT
200 NE 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405.522.0612
mkimbro@odot.org

Region V Representative

Jesse Beck, CFM
City of Ponca City
516 East Grand
Ponca City, OK 74601
580.767.0383
beckje@poncacityok.gov

Ex Officio

Julie Cunningham
Executive Director
OWRB
3800 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.530.8800
julie.cunningham@owrb.ok.gov

Vice Chair

Annie Vest, CFM
Freese & Nichols
4200 E Skelly Dr, Suite 410
Tulsa, OK 74135
402.890.0851
annie.vest@freese.com

Region II Representative

Kenneth Schwab, PE, CFM
City of Broken Arrow
220 South 1st Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
918.259.7000
kschwab@brokenarrowok.gov

State NFIP Coordinator

Jonathan Phillips, CFM
OWRB
3800 North Classen Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.530.8800
jon.phillips@owrb.ok.gov

Honorary Board Member

Ken Morris
OWRB—Retired
5400 E. Tecumseh Road
Norman, OK 73026
405.573.7990
kensbbd@gmail.com

Secretary

Rachael Cooper, PE, CFM
Wagoner County
307 E. Cherokee Street
Wagoner, OK 74467
918.485.7979
rcooper@wagonercounty.ok.gov

Region III Representative

Dennis Yochum
LeFlore County EM
1215 South Broadway
Poteau, OK 74953
918.635.3610
emlcldirector@gmail.com

Past Chair

Ellen Stevens, PhD, PE, CFM
1134 NW 33rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.747.6598
ellen@ellenphdpe.com

Honorary Board Member

Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM
R.D. Flanagan & Associates
3015 E. Skelly Drive
No. 270
Tulsa, OK 74105
918.749.2696
rdflanagan@rdflanagan.com

Treasurer

Carolyn Schultz, CFM
Corps of Engineers—Retired
3527 S. 401st W. Ave.
Mannford, OK 74044
918.906.3922
cschultz@cimtel.net

Region IV Representative

Johnny A. Barron, PE, CFM
City of Altus
509 S. Main
Altus, OK 73521
580.481.3518
jbarron@altusok.gov

PDCC Chair / Honorary Board Member

Joseph Remondini, PE, CFM
Corps of Engineers—Retired
3225 S. Detroit
Tulsa, OK 74105
918.361.8636
jremondini@aol.com

BFE Editor

Janet K. Meshek, PE, CFM,
SR/WA
Meshek & Associates, LLC
1437 S. Boulder Ave.
No. 1550
Tulsa, OK 74119
918.392.5620
jmeshek@meshekengr.com