

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

2025 Stormwater Technical Update

Brandon Claborn PE, CFM - OFMA Conference Co-Chair

Chandler Trotter, EI, CFM - BFE Editor

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On July 16, stormwater professionals from across Oklahoma gathered at the Gaillardia Country Club in Oklahoma City for the annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop. Now in its second year at this venue, the workshop once again had strong attendance, and a program full of timely and informative presentations, combined excellent facilities.

The event started with an opening plenary and a warm welcome from Jesse Beck, EI, CFM, OFMA Chair.

Clint Johnson from Green County Stormwater Alliance (GCSA) and Hollie Throne from Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance (COSWA) began with an introduction to their respective agencies and the support they provide. Then, Miles Mungle from ODEQ updated us on what is new at the department including OKR04 Updates. We heard from Dr. Jason Vogel, PhD, PE, with the University of Oklahoma and Dr. Jamie Schussler, with Oklahoma State University, who highlighted the mission of the Great Plains Stormwater Center of Excellence.

The last session before lunch was given by Professor Emeritus John Gulliver with the University of Minnesota. He joined remotely to share insights on how climate change may affect urban stormwater infrastructure, with a focus on rainfall trends and detention strategies. His talk encouraged thoughtful discussion among attendees.

After a networking lunch, attendees joined breakout sessions focused on LID/Green Infrastructure, Inspections and Reporting, and Research Topics.

- The LID/Green Infrastructure session, moderated by Carrie Evenson from Midwest City, with presentations by Michelle Chao and Katrina Boteler, City of Norman, on the Watershed Based Plan for Bishop Creek; Jesse Clark with Stream Landscape Architecture + Planning, discussed finding the balance when stacking green infrastructure projects; and Dr. Jason Vogel, OU, and Jacob Burton, Olsson, covered using LID for flood control in Oklahoma.
- The Inspections and Reporting session, moderated by Morgan Lozoya from WSB, included presentations Myles Mungle with

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Letter from the Editor

Chandler Trotter EI, CFM | BFE Editor
H&H Graduate Engineer | WSB LLC

Welcome back to the quarterly BFE Newsletter! I'm excited to introduce myself as your new BFE Editor.

I am a Water Resource Engineer with WSB in my third year of experience in this industry. As one of OFMA's newer members, I'm grateful to be part of an organization that works so hard to lift up its members - providing not only ample training and technical resources but also lasting connections between professionals in this field.

In July, I was lucky enough to attend another successful Stormwater Quality Technical Conference. Morgan Lozoya and the conference team deserve recognition for their hard work to ensure this event is always high quality and impactful for our membership. The turnout and energy showed just how much our members believe in OFMA's vision of integrating stormwater quantity and quality management.

As summer begins to wind down, we look forward to our annual conference in Midwest City. The conference theme "Impacting Lives" serves as an opportunity to return to the fundamentals of floodplain management, because beyond the mapping and regulatory efforts, our work ultimately centers on protecting the people in our communities.

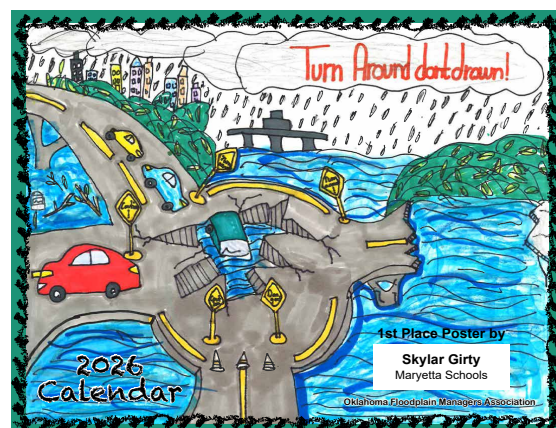
There is still time to register, more information on that is contained on our website.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and as always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions. chandler.trotter@wsbeng.com

Chandler



The 2026 Turn Around Don't Drown Calendars Are Available for Pickup



WSB

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Call or come by to get yours! 918.698.6699

Continued on Page 1

ODEQ, who shared updates on OKR04 e-reporting features, and Treasure Agbonkhese, WSB, who demonstrated GIS story map tools for stormwater management.

- The Research Topics session, moderated by Dr. Jason Vogel from the University of Oklahoma and Dr. Jaime Schussler from Oklahoma State University, showcased a variety of stormwater management research topics presented by M.S. student of Oklahoma State University: Madelynn Henderson, Brittany Moehnke, Megan Ryan, Kalen Rigdon, and Elena Hobbs.

The afternoon session continued with two plenary speakers. The first presentation was from Allison Whitsitt, CEM, WSB; she shared key fundamentals to keep in mind when navigating changing funding opportunities.

Kenneth Schwab PE, SE, CFM and Sarah Walters PE, CFM, City of Broken Arrow, presented the outcomes of the Florence Park Restoration which balances water quantity and quality considerations.

A special thank you goes to SWQ Chair Morgan Lozoya and those who helped make this year's workshop successful.

OFMA 2025 Annual Conference

September 22-24, 2025

Reed Conference Center
5750 Will Rogers Rd
Midwest City, OK 73110

OKLAHOMA

FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

2025 OFMA Annual Conference: *Impacting Lives*

[Registration](#) is Open Now!

[Visit our website for more details!](#)



OWRB Welcomes Bailey Williams



New OWRB staff member Bailey Williams is originally from the small town of Okay in Northeastern Oklahoma. Growing up in a rural area with few distractions, Bailey spent countless hours outdoors fishing, exploring the prairie, and swimming- experiences that sparked a lifelong interest in environmental science and sustainability. That passion eventually led Bailey to the University of Oklahoma, where she received a degree in Environmental Sustainability. The interdisciplinary nature of the program equipped Bailey to examine environmental challenges from social, scientific, and economic perspectives.

Outside of work, Bailey enjoys photography, hiking, painting, traveling, cooking, and spending time with friends and family. Now, as a member of OWRB Floodplain Management, Bailey is excited to apply her education and prior work experience to help communities across Oklahoma become more resilient to flooding events. She looks forward to contributing to the team's mission and making a positive impact across the state.

After Brief Delay, NOAA's Atlas 15 Project Moves Ahead

Originally published in ASFPM News & Views

By [News Editor](#) August 11, 2025

NOAA has confirmed that they are moving forward on Atlas 15, both Volume 1 and Volume 2. Continuation of this project is important as NOAA Atlas 15 will become the authoritative source for precipitation frequency information across the United States. The Trump administration had paused contracts for work on Atlas 15 for about a month earlier this year.

Volume 1 will provide a snapshot of current estimates updated to account for temporal changes in historical observations while Volume 2 will provide model-based precipitation frequency estimates projected into the future. When published, NOAA Atlas 15 Volume 1 will supersede the current NOAA Atlas 14 precipitation frequency estimates.

Projected timeline for Atlas 15 completion: Contiguous United States (CONUS)

The lower 48 states

- 2025 – Preliminary estimates available for peer review and feedback
- 2026 – Published estimates available for use and application

Outside the Contiguous United States (CONUS)

Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Pacific Islands and Guam

- 2026 – Preliminary estimates available for peer review and feedback
- 2027 – Published estimates available for use and application

You can find out more about the NOAA Atlas 15 project and a pilot study for Montana that was released in 2024 at [NOAA's website](#)

From Alert to Aftermath: Navigating Severe Weather as a Community

Allisin Whitsitt | WSB LLC | Director, Emergency Management



When severe weather strikes, taking swift and informed action is crucial to ensure safety and minimize storm risks. Being prepared and knowing how to respond effectively can make a significant difference.

■ **Stay Indoors & Seek Shelter:** During severe weather, it's essential to follow your preparedness plan by sheltering in a designated safe space, such as a basement or an interior room without windows. If you're in a public location, avoid large open rooms like gymnasiums and seek shelter away from windows and glass doors. For those caught outdoors, do not attempt to drive, especially in dangerous weather like tornadoes or flash floods. Instead, find sturdy shelter to reduce storm risks. Stay away from overpasses, trees, or other unsecured structures that could pose a risk. If no shelter is available, lie flat in a low-lying area while covering your head and neck.

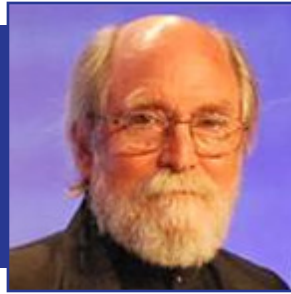


■ **Stay Alert & Informed:** Staying informed during severe weather is critical to managing storm risks. Keep a charged cell phone and a backup battery handy. This ensures you can receive updates and stay connected. Invest in a NOAA Weather Radio to receive real-time emergency broadcasts, even if cellular networks fail. While social media and local emergency management pages can provide valuable updates, they should not be your sole source of information. This is due to the potential for misinformation or network outages. Ensure notifications for weather alerts are enabled on your phone to stay updated on warnings and advisories in your area.

■ **Avoid Complacency:** Severe weather often brings multiple alerts over time, leading to what's commonly known as "weather fatigue." This constant barrage of warnings can cause people to ignore subsequent alerts, assuming the danger has passed. However, severe weather patterns are unpredictable and can change rapidly, making it crucial to treat each warning seriously to mitigate storm risks. Always listen to official directives, even if the situation seems stable, as conditions can escalate without warning.

■ **Aftermath & Recovery Resources:** The aftermath of severe weather can be challenging and require time and effort to recover. Local Emergency Managers are often the first to provide assistance, helping with debris removal, temporary relief efforts, and damage reporting to state and federal agencies. Understanding storm risks is important because immediate assistance might not be available for up to 72 hours. This is because response teams mobilize resources. To facilitate quicker recovery, document all damage by taking photos and videos of your property before discarding any damaged items. These records, along with receipts for repairs or replacements, can be invaluable for insurance claims or applications for disaster assistance.

Beyond personal recovery, building community resilience is a vital part of preparedness. When individuals and families have a plan, and encourage others to develop their own, the entire community benefits. A resilient community can respond more effectively to crises, reduce storm risks, and recover more quickly. Preparedness extends beyond individual safety—it strengthens the bonds within neighborhoods and fosters a collective effort to face and overcome challenges together.



OFMA DRT Corner

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

The heat of summer is upon us and the funding from FEMA for Mitigation has dried up. So where do communities go now with continuing disasters plaguing our communities, throughout the United States,, and even the world.

Different approaches seem to be emerging. Texas, for example, has assisted local communities over the past weeks with funds for recovery from the devastating disaster in Kerr County in the Hill Country of Texas. But states like Louisiana are stricken with the loss of historic support from FEMA.

Oklahoma is looking for some funding support for mitigation through Annie Vest's efforts at DEM, but if the State of Oklahoma were to have another 1986 or 1993 or 2022 series of flood events, there probably is not enough available funding to help all.

Our OFMA DRT responded to the City of Morris in late May 2025 that had many structures flooded, only to find out that only two of the structures were in the regulatory SFHA. All of the other structures were flooded by stormwater issues, not designated floodplain issues.

Over the past 15 years we are finding more and more flooding outside the SFHA, and most is likely from stormwater issues – inadequate storm drainage systems – pipes, culverts, bar ditches; while some are caused by higher intensity, short duration rainfall events that dump a lot of rainfall in a very short time. The historic drainage systems were not intended or designed for these types of events.

I believe our communities need to rethink disaster preparedness and disaster response. Looking forward, funds need to be allocated for maintenance of our drainage systems on an annual basis, along with funding for capital improvements to upgrade these antiquated drainage systems. Will it be easy – NO, Will it cost our citizens in each community more – YES. Will there be Federal funding opportunities – WHO KNOWS?

I also believe that to begin or continue to be sustainable and resilient communities we need to take it upon ourselves to care for our communities – not solely rely on the Federal Government as has been done historically. FEMA may or may not go away, and future funding for Mitigation – such a BRIC (that has been eliminated) is sorely needed by many communities throughout the United States, including Oklahoma. Maybe future Administrations will be able to make a comeback through an updated version of FEMA to support our citizens in a responsible and prudent manner.

REMINDER – Do your ditch and culvert cleaning – It does make a difference!!

Congratulations to the 2025 New CFMs

Anthony Hamilton P.E., CFM - Envirotech Engineering & Consulting

Travis Godeaux P.E., CFM - Guy Engineering

Chandler Trotter EI, CFM - WSB LLC

FEMA Updates Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide

From FEMA.gov



FEMA

The Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide (PDA Guide) is a standard framework for how emergency management officials conduct preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) following a disaster.

The [2025 Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide](#), dated July 1, 2025 is in effect for events with incident periods from July 1, 2025 and after. For periods from July 2024-June 2025 the PDA Operational Guide Draft should be the guidance utilized. For a complete list of changes to the Guide, please refer to the [Summary of Changes](#).

The [2025 Preliminary Damage Assessment Pocket Guide](#) is a supplement to the full PDA Guide and provides high level guidance that can be used as a reference in the field.

Visit FEMA's [YouTube channel](#) to watch a video series on the PDA process.

Thank you to our Corporate Partners!



If you are interested in partnering with us please contact
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