



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 5

November 2002

Number 1

12th Annual OFMA Conference Summary

Taking Ownership at the Local Level: No Adverse Impact

Quartz Mountain State Lodge, Lone Wolf, Oklahoma

Legislators Lauded for Floodplain Efforts



Representative Thad Balkman of Norman was honored at the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) as the Public Official of the Year. This year's event was held September 21-24 at Quartz Mountain State Resort.

"Representative Balkman is a great friend and supporter of OFMA," says Ken Morris, State Floodplain Manager. "He understands the importance of floodplain management and the many benefits it provides to Oklahomans."

Specifically, Balkman was recognized for co-authoring House Bill 2228, which changed the purpose of the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act. Prior to this year the primary purpose of the act was to allow communities to become eligible for flood insurance. HB 2228 changed the primary purpose of the act to now protect and preserve the beneficial uses and functions of the natural floodplain and still allow communities to be eligible for flood insurance. HB 2228 also calls for flood damage reduction and to encourage local officials to attend annual training.

Balkman is a member of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. OFMA also cited Balkman for his support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's "No Adverse Impact" initiative and pursuit of funding for flood mitigation in the State Legislature.

The Public Official of the Year award is given to those officials who implement public policy initiatives that demonstrate excellence in floodplain management. Flooding is the single most costly disaster affecting Oklahomans each year.

"I am honored to be chosen for this award, but the real winner is OFMA," said Balkman, who is completing his first term in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

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Senator Bruce Price of Hinton, received the Silver Scoop Award from the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association at their 12th Annual Conference at Quartz Mountain Lodge. Senator Price co-authored HB 2228 this past year.



The OFMA Silver Scoop award is presented to key individuals that have contributed significantly to the association. Past Chairman Walter Stout said, "Senator Price also knows the importance of annual training for the local floodplain manager. Senator Price's support of HB 2228 is very much appreciated."

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Representative Percy Walker received a Special Recognition Award from the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association at their 12th Annual Conference at Quartz Mountain Lodge. Representative Walker co-authored HB 2228 this past year. Representative Walker also informed all House members this past April about the dangers of flood waters as a part of the May 2002 Flood Awareness Month proclamation.

More than 100 local floodplain managers, engineers, and state and federal officials attended the three-day training conference. This annual meeting also provides continuing education credits for Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) to continue their education in the profession and maintain their role as the community floodplain manager. Representative Percy Walker opened the conference by singing the national anthem and provided a welcome address for conference participants on Monday.

According to OFMA Past Chairman Walter Stout from Pryor Creek, Oklahoma, Representative Walker is a strong supporter of wise floodplain management in Oklahoma. He further said, Walker's past experience as a County Commissioner has helped him understand the importance of floodplain management in Oklahoma. The conference theme "Taking Ownership at the Local Level: No Adverse Impact," refers to the importance the local floodplain administrator has in reducing flood loss to his or her community. No Adverse Impact (NAI) is a national initiative to encourage local communities to go above and beyond the minimum floodplain management standards.

Conference Summary

Saturday, September 21, 2002: New business acted upon at the Board meeting saw the new contract for the BFE, discussed & approved for the next year. The new contract calls for six issues over the next 12 months.

Sunday, September 22: Sunday member activities included the 5th Annual Golf Tournament and a well-attended welcome social for members Sunday evening. Mike & Carolyn Schultz came in with the best score to win the 5th Annual OFMA Golf Tournament. Lonnie Ward had the longest drive of 305 yards on the 18th hole. Many thanks to Gavin Brady for organizing and leading this excellent networking opportunity.

Monday, September 23: Monday began with committee meetings at 10:00 am. The committees included Legislative, Education and Public Information, Mapping and Engineering, Certification & Mitigation. The Mapping committee created a mission statement that was presented at the Tuesday morning business meeting. Each committee chair summarized their meeting during the open plenary session.

Chair Walter Stout opened the conference in the Kiowa and Caddo Rooms leading OFMA members in the Pledge of Allegiance, Representative Percy Walker sang the National Anthem. Keynote speakers included Rep. Percy Walker, Senator Robert M. Kerr, Attorney Randal Homburg, OWRB Executive Director Duane Smith, and OWRB legal Counsel Dean Couch.



The USGS-sponsored the Opening Plenary Session and all vendors sponsored the Monday evening cook out at the outdoor pavilion. Hank Elling provided excellent country and western live entertainment for cook out attendees. Anna Waggoner prepared all the signs for the conference that added a touch of class to the conference as well as recognized the many and much needed conference sponsors.

Tuesday, September 24: Tuesday began with the annual OFMA business meeting in the Falcon Room at 7:00 am. The meeting was called to order and the Chairman opened the meeting. He praised the OFMA Board for all their hard work and dedication for the past year. The Executive Director gave a short report following the Chairman.

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Anna Waggoner, Past Chair, presented each Regional Rep a plaque for the work they have done during the past year.

Minutes of the last annual meeting were approved. The annual financial statement was given by Treasurer Carolyn Schultz and approved. The new vice chair of the Association is Andy Kincaid from Payne County. Each of the other officers and regional representatives were re-elected.

Three break out sessions were held - Mapping and Engineering, Mitigation and Natural & Beneficial Uses. Each session program was designed to support the conference theme, taking ownership and NAI.

Larry Larson gave the luncheon Key Note address on No Adverse Impact. The OFMA Board presented Larry with a block of Watonga Cheese in the shape of the great state of Oklahoma, just in case a Wisconsinite did not know good cheese. Larry gave an excellent presentation on why locals need to go above and beyond the minimum if we are to reduce annual flood losses in this nation.



The Annual OFMA Awards Banquet began at 7:00 pm. with Vice Chair Janet Meshek presiding. Lynne Stevenson received the Floodplain Manager of the Year Award; Ron Flanagan received the Charles Don Ellison Memorial Award for his support of the highest goals of OFMA; Hank Elling received the Ben Frizzell Memorial Award for his excellent work on the OFMA web site; Rep. Thad Balkman received the Public Official of the Year Award for his work supporting HB 2228, support of NAI and mitigation funding work; and Senator Bruce Price received The Silver Scoop Award for his support and work on HB 2228. Following the awards banquet the OFMA membership enjoyed a very nice evening listening, seeing and experiencing the Native American Fancy Dancers at the Amphitheater thanks to Tom Graham.



A Special Recognition Award was presented to Rex Hennen, Mapping Committee Chair for the committee work he did this past year. Special Recognition Awards were also presented to Commissioner Tom Deering for his support of the Payne County Program and to Tom Blalock for his work on the development of the Teal Ridge Outdoor Classroom. The Platinum Project Award was presented to the City

of Bixby for the community support of the drainage projects they have accomplished that will mitigate future flood losses.

Wednesday, September 25: A Past Chair's Breakfast was held at 7:00 pm. Past chairs in attendance included-Ron Flanagan, Bob Bigham, Anna Waggoner, Harold Springer, Bart Hines, TJ Davis, Walter Stout & Joe Remondini. Guests included Larry Larson and Ken Morris.

PBS&J sponsored the Closing Plenary Session. The session began at 8:30 am with some opening remarks by Ken Morris. Chairman Stout then introduced the first morning speaker, Kent Baxter, FEMA, Region VI. Kent gave a very informative power point presentation that showed where FEMA is going that includes the new Homeland Defense mission.

Insurance Commissioner Carroll Fisher spoke on the need to educate property and casualty agents about selling more flood insurance policies and promised continued support from his department and staff with the OWRB, OFMA and the local officials.

Jack Graham shared mitigation success stories on how Kingfisher uses city funds to buy land and property in the floodplain. Carolyn Schultz was recognized for her continued good work. Lonnie Ward, FEMA, addressed the group on the

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Web Sites

- OFMA** www.okflood.org
- ASFPM** www.floods.org
- OWRB** www.owrb.state.ok.us
- FEMA** www.fema.gov
- OEMA** www.angelfire.com/ok2/oema
- ODCEM** www.onenet.net/~odcem
- Corps of Engineers (USACE)**
www.swt.usace.army.mil
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)**
ok.water.usgs.gov
- Advanced Study Institute**
web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi
- CLOMR/LOMR Forms:**
www.fema.gov/forms/forms.htm
- EPA NPDES Phase II site:**
www.epa.gov/npdes/
- SMRC Stormwater Mgr Resource Center:** www.stormwatercenter.net
- WebMaster:** Hank Elling, P.E., CFM (580) 248-7762 hcelling@owrb.state.ok.us

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **OWRB Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP**; January 6-10, 2003, Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org
- **OSLS Spring Conference**, March 5-8, 2003; Contact: OSLS, P.O. Box 720126, Oklahoma City, OK 73172; 405-721-7222; Email: osls@oslo.org; www.osls.org.
- **Arkansas Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP**; March 10-14, 2003; Contact Jason Donham (501) 682-3907
- **AFMA Spring Conference**; TBA; For more information contact Jason Donham (501) 682-3907
- **Twenty-Seventh Annual Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers**; May 3-8, 2003, St. Louis, MO. Contact: *ASFPM Executive Office, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713-3120*; (608) 274-0123; fax: (608) 274-0696; e-mail: asfpm@floods.org; website: www.floods.org
- **NFIP Training**; Muskogee, OK, May 7, 2003; Bartlesville, OK, May 8, 2003; Woodward, OK, May 20, 2003; Lawton, OK, May 22, 2003; for more information, call 405-530-8800.
- **OWRB Workshops in May**; see next BFE.
- **NFIP 2003 National Flood Conference**; May 27-30, 2003 in San Francisco; contact Catherine King at (301)918-1439.
- **OFMA Annual Fall Conference**, Sep 22-24, 2003: Location to be announced. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org
- **OWRB Floodplain 101 Workshop**, Location to be announced, Sept 24-25, 2002, for more information, call 405-530-8800.

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primary issue that will face all of us this upcoming year, the Mapping Modernization Program, and how it will take increased coordination and teamwork by all to make this program successful.

Many special thanks to the numerous door prize donors that made this year's door prize drawings a conference highlight. ODOT, Terra Aqua, ASFPM, Meyers Engineering, OWRB, Joe's Antique Store -Tulsa, Meshek & Associates, Inc., and FTN, Inc., provided door prizes.

To conclude the closing session, Walter Stout passed the gavel to the new Chairman Janet Meshek, who thanked all for attending and adjourned another very successful OFMA conference.

The OFMA Board held a short Board meeting following the conference to discuss the Past Chair sub committee concept, the mapping strategy for this next year, getting OWRB to initiate action to be a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) state and the possibility of adding a historian to the OFMA Board.

Thursday, September 26: Immediately following the 12th Annual Conference, OWRB hosted the Floodplain Managers 101 Workshop with 15 attendees. Immediately following the workshop, the CFM exam was proctored and two pre-approved exam candidates took the exam

November CFM Corner

CFM is now Trademarked by ASFPM!

Yes, this means that your official title as a "CFM" is now protected by law. Any person that claims to be a "CFM" in the floodplain management field, must have obtained the title through the formal ASFPM Certification program. This means the national program or a State Certification Program after it has been accredited by ASFPM.

FEMA's IS-9 Course

FEMA's course "Managing Floodplains Through the NFIP" (Independent Study 9) has been discontinued. FEMA is working on up-dating and revising the course. However, there are still copies of the Student Manual available though FEMA's Independent Study Office (301-447-1835). The Student Manual includes the text only and does not have the additional course materials. The course can also be downloaded, in chapters, from the ASFPM website (<http://www.floods.org/IS9/is9.htm>)

Al Goodman— CFM Success Story

Al Goodman is the Mississippi NFIP State Coordinator. When Al obtained his CFM designation, he received an "Education Benchmark" pay increase from the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. The raise was equivalent to those employees that attain a Master's Degree. It is now a requirement that the Mississippi State NFIP Coordinator obtain the CFM designation. Congratulations Al on a great job! We appreciate all that you do for ASFPM!



If you have a certification success story to share, please notify the Executive Office.

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

Floodplains are for floodwaters, habitat, water quality enhancement and recreation.

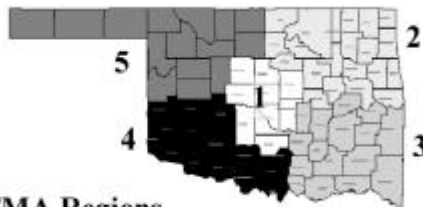
Mission

We encourage and support, with our partners, flood-safe development and flood mitigation. We promote sound floodplain management practices and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain. We support the floodplain management profession through education and certification.

Saving lives from floods and reducing property loss from floods are paramount to us.

An Invitation to Join OFMA

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association is a non-profit organization primarily dedicated to providing information and education to the public about reduction of loss of life and property due to flooding.



OFMA Regions

The best investment that \$30.00 can buy in the future of your state is a membership in the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____ Company/Organization: _____
 Title: _____ Address: _____
 Work Phone: _____ City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Detach and Mail to:
OFMA
 P.O. Box 8101
 Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

New Member: Renewal:
 Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5
 Committees:
 ___ Mitigation ___ Floodplain Regulations
 ___ Flood Insurance ___ Mapping & Engineering
 ___ Flood Proofing ___ Stormwater Management
 ___ Research

Dues Schedule:
 First-Year dues are probated depending on the quarter during which you join. The fiscal year start October 1st and ends September 30th.

	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Full Membership	\$ 30.00	\$ 22.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.50
Student Membership	15.00	11.25	7.50	3.75
Associate Membership	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
Agency Membership (Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)	50.00	37.50	25.00	12.50
Corporate Sponsor	100.00	75.00	50.00	25.00



Notes From the Executive Director

I want to personally thank Jason Donham and Jim Narey for asking me to speak at the Arkansas Floodplain Managers Annual Conference in Fort Smith this past October. I thoroughly enjoyed traveling to the great state of Arkansas, meeting the Mayor of Fort Smith and being a part of the opening ceremony for the 2002 Arkansas Association Annual Conference. I am always awed with the Pledge of Allegiance and with the special groups singing our National Anthem and Chairman Jim Narey's opening ceremony was really something. These things are very special.

At this conference I spoke on "Going Above And Beyond, Taking Ownership of Your Ordinance and the No Adverse Impact initiative" established by ASFPM.

There is no getting around it, if the basics of floodplain management are going to be met and we reduce flood damages, it must come at the local level. There is only one individual that can affect this outcome and that is Local Floodplain Manager. This one person, one individual, is the key to what we are about and should be applauded tremendously as the road "Baby" is up hill and a steep hill at that. This one person must battle many elements working against him or her. First and foremost is politics. In communities with a recent flood history is not so bad, but for communities that have never had a flood or have only flooded once in the past 50 years, it is a different story.

What makes the local floodplain manager's job so tough one must first look at the daily business of a city, town, county or tribe. Trash pick up, meter reading, police, fire, water and sewage treatment operations, road repair & many, many other more immediate issues dictate officials daily actions. Ensuring new development is compliant with the local flood ordinance may not be a high priority unless the floodplain manager champions this daily task. The local floodplain manager must champion this profession at the local level and that can be tough. Each community's leaders are extremely important to daily floodplain management tasks and overall flood loss reduction. If the local officials do not support the local floodplain manager and trust him or her makes it extremely difficult for the FPM, if not entirely impossible.

My challenge to all mayors, city managers, county commissioners, city councilmen, boards of trustees and other civic leaders in our communities is to support & encourage your local floodplain manager. Try and understand how difficult this job can be and how you can help make new development safer from flooding by supporting the No Adverse Impact Initiative. As the Community leader your opinion and support is critical for the local floodplain manager. Send them the message you want your floodplain managed to protect the natural functions and beneficial uses of the floodplain.

Ken Morris, OFMA Executive Director and State Floodplain Manager for Oklahoma.



OFMA General Store

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association gifts are now available. The attractive OFMA articles are of the highest quality. You will be proud to wear and display them.

To Order: OFMA
P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, OK 74101

Or Call Carolyn Schultz (918) 669-4919



OFMA Golf Shirt (S, M, L, X-L)	35.00
Briefcase	25.00
Baseball Cap (One size fits all)	15.00
Insulated Mug	10.00
Umbrella	20.00
Portfolio	25.00
Lapel Pin	3.00
CFM Lapel Pin	5.00

Shipping and handling \$4.95 per order.



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