



# The B.F.E.\*

\* Base Flood Elevation

## OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 8

Spring 2006

Number 2

### *OFMA Spring Technical Conference Wrap Up*

**2006** has started off with an exceptional bang for members of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association! OFMA's Spring Technical Workshop took a new approach this year and was met with great enthusiasm. *Diverting Disasters in Oklahoma: Dams, Levees, and Floodwaters* was this year's Spring Workshop theme. The workshop theme was fashioned after communities around the nation began revisiting potential hazards associated with structural flood protection measures following the enormous flooding damages from the New Orleans levee system failures. OFMA brought together an extensive knowledge base for the workshop. Presenters were affiliated with various agencies involved with flood protection around the State including Oklahoma Emergency Management, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Municipalities, non-profit agencies and consultants were also on hand to provide insights and actual case examples related to floodplain management and development in Special Flood Hazard Areas.



The first half of the single day workshop was held inside the conference center of the Tulsa Technology Center near the west bank of the Arkansas River. An optional meeting was held in the morning for first time attendees to get better acquainted with OFMA and its membership base. The opening plenary session included presentations from invited guests and a video documenting the series of flood events that motivated the revitalization of Tulsa's Floodplain Management Program. The Keynote Speaker during lunch was Dr. David Neal, a nationally renowned disaster aftermath specialist from Oklahoma State University. After lunch, workshop participants boarded two full size buses to visit some of northeastern Oklahoma's most extensive flood protection areas along the Arkansas River. Each bus toured

the extensive levee system along the Arkansas River while following separate routes to the Keystone Dam. Each tour bus was occupied with a group of presenters who sided with different viewpoints on the issue of development behind flood control structures. With the opposing viewpoints separated between the two buses, participants were offered a chance to hear both sides independently from the other. At the Keystone Dam, both buses were unloaded and presented with a brief description of the history and functionality of the Keystone Dam. After the discussion, participants switched buses to experience the other route and the alternate viewpoint from the bus moderators. The field trip was very insightful for the participants and discussions encompassing various viewpoints from both sides of floodplain development issues were well received.

#### IN THIS ISSUE

SPRING WORKSHOP WRAP UP.....	1
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE .....	1
ANNUAL CONFERENCE.....	2
LEVEE REBUILDING UPDATE .....	3
OFMA REGION 4 REPRESENTATIVE.....	4
REGION 4 NFIP PARTICIPANTS MAP ....	5
FEMA GUIDE ON LOCAL FLOODING ....	5
ACCREDITATION DEADLINES .....	6
MITIGATION MAKES CENTS! .....	7
QUESTION/ANSWER COLUMN .....	7
WEBSITES/EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES	8
OFMA GENERAL STORE.....	8
ELEVATION CERTIFICATE UPDATE .....	9
OFMA'S VISION AND MISSION .....	9
OFMA MEMBERSHIP INVITATION .....	9
STATE NFIP COORDINATOR NOTES ...	10
MITIGATION MAKES CENTS! (CONT.)	10
OFMA'S CORPORATE PARTNERS .....	11
2005-2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....	12

INSIDE

#### OFMA has a New Membership Committee

OFMA, as a non-profit organization, is dependant on a stable and skillful base of members to enhance the programming, fellowship and variety of resources that all contribute to the organizations mission. In order to achieve this, OFMA has decided to create a new committee to oversee the membership aspects of the organization. This all new Membership Committee has been charged with 3 basic tasks:

- Membership Recruitment • Mentoring of New Members • Retention of Existing Members

The Board believes that these 3 tasks are vital to keep members enthusiastic and appreciative of OFMA's dedicated role in assisting our State's floodplain management programs. The new committee has been delegated the task of overseeing the planning and operation of all social activities at OFMA events including events like the golf tournament, 'First Timer Meetings' and the vendor socials. The committee will help to see that our membership base remains stable with continued growth and that current members are satisfied with the organization. The more members we have, the more legitimate we are to our employers, our legislators, and the general public.

Nancy Wade from the City of Bartlesville has agreed to serve as the Chair of the new Membership Committee and she already has five committee members signed up! Thanks to Gavin Brady, Ken Morris, Sara Nieves, Joe Remondini and Neil Robinson for joining! This a fantastic start, but we're hoping YOU might consider joining us too!

A Committee focused on membership obviously needs some cheerleaders and event planners, but we also need people with ideas, people with experience, and people who are simply eager to serve an organization that they believe in. So, if you have a passion for OFMA and might be interested in joining this new and exciting committee, please send Nancy Wade an email at [newade@cityofbartlesville.org](mailto:newade@cityofbartlesville.org) or give her a call at (918) 338-4243.



## May is FLOOD AWARENESS Month

Spring marks the unofficial beginning of the state's flood season, and to make citizens aware of flooding problems and solutions, Governor Brad Henry has designated the month of May as "Flood Awareness Month" in Oklahoma.

Historically, the greatest numbers of flood disasters in Oklahoma have occurred during the month of May. Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters, with the exception of fire. Most communities in the country can experience some kind of flooding after spring rains, heavy thunderstorms, or winter snow thaws. Flooding causes more than \$2 billion in property damage and numerous deaths each year. To add to the

woes, losses due to flooding are generally not covered under most homeowners or business policies.

Floodwaters can be extremely dangerous. The force of six inches of swiftly moving water can knock people off their feet. The best protection during a flood is to leave the area and go to shelter on higher ground. Flash flood waters move at very fast speeds and can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings, and obliterate bridges. Walls of water can reach heights of 10 to 20 feet and generally are accompanied by a deadly cargo of debris.

Each year, several Oklahomans lose their lives by driving into dangerous floodwaters. If floodwaters rise around a car, it should be abandoned. Drivers need to learn to never drive into moving water, especially if the water is deep enough to cover the wheel rims of the car. Depth can be deceptive and cars can easily be swept away in just two feet of moving water. This May, let's work to keep our communities well informed of the dangers of floodwaters and the commitment we as floodplain managers have made to keep our citizens and their property safe from flood hazards.

### *Gearing Up for the OFMA 16th Annual Conference!!!*



The time is approaching for this year's Annual Conference to be held at the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman, Oklahoma, September 17th through the 20th. Rooms for the conference at the Sooner Hotel are filling up fast so be sure and get your reservations made early, see more information on the OFMA Website at [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org). Once the Hotel is booked, rooms will have to be reserved off campus so don't wait too long! The conference will be held within walking distance from Sooner Hotel at the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education .

The OFMA Annual Conference is regarded as the best opportunity to network with your fellow floodplain managers and receive vital information concerning floodplain management updates and policy changes from the national to the local level. With the hurricane disasters experienced this past year, significant changes could be implemented by the Department of Homeland Security. By attending this conference you will learn how DHS and FEMA could be changing some basic program elements.

The Annual Conference will have a golf tournament planned for Sunday the 17th and the always exciting Awards Banquet will follow the Tuesday training sessions. Tuesday evening's entertainment will be provided by the Cimarron Circuit Company Opera. Now is the time for nominations for the Awards Banquet, so if you know someone who should be recognized as a leader of floodplain management in our State, make sure and get your nomination form downloaded from the OFMA website.

Monday evenings Vendor's Social will be held in the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This museum was renovated in May of 2000 to encompass 195,000 square feet of exhibit space and contains a fascinating collection of natural and cultural history of Oklahoma. Entertainment for the event will be the sensational jazz group Shortt Dogg.

The Opening Plenary Session will be Monday, the 18th. Four break out sessions are planned including the 101 Workshop. The Conference will come to a close on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. with the door prize giveaway. If you would like to sponsor a break or an event, please contact Laureen Gilroy at (918) 596-2859. We look forward to seeing each of you there so plan for the 16th Annual Conference and make your reservations now!



## New Orleans Levee Improvement and Rebuilding Update



It doesn't seem long since Tropical Storm Zeta fizzled out in the first week of January 2006 ending the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season with a record number of 28 named storms in the Atlantic. And it won't be long before June 1<sup>st</sup> opens the 2006 Atlantic Ocean hurricane season. This is also the date that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has set as a goal for construction of three proposed floodgates as well as the complete development of a plan detailing the potential impacts of a Category 5 hurricane for the entire coastline.

Due to the extensive length of levees damaged by Hurricane Katrina (169 miles) and the ballooning cost estimates to rebuild the levees, the USACE has decided to proceed with proposed floodgates as a way to prevent storm surges from building up in three of the city's major drainage canals.

The fabrication and installation of temporary closure gates at the mouths of three outfall drainage canals by June 1<sup>st</sup> will isolate the outfall canals and their levee walls from potential Lake Pontchartrain storm surges during the upcoming hurricane season. The gates will only be closed when the canals are potentially threatened by storm surges from Lake Pontchartrain. Normally, canals in New Orleans drain rainwater from New Orleans streets into Lake Pontchartrain. However, during Hurricane Katrina this flow reversed, pushing storm surges from the lake into the canals, ultimately causing levees that were not even overtopped to break open from the unusual pressure.

The new floodgates will remain open to allow rainwater to drain out of the canals unless a major storm begins to reverse the flow of water from the lake into the canals. In that case, the gates would close to prevent water from coming into the canals while temporary pumps would continue to move rainwater out.

Many engineers studying the system see the best long-term solution as building new, permanent pumping stations at the mouths of the canals, which would allow drainage pumping to continue at full capacity while the gates were closed. However, in order to pursue such a plan, the Corps must first get authorization from Congress.

Maj. Gen. Don Riley, USACE director of Civil Works, has called the rebuilding effort "one of the largest and most ambitious civil works projects ever undertaken in the United States". The Corps has doubled the standard amount of quality control and quality assurance inspections to ensure the soil and other materials meet the highest standards. Additionally, the USACE New Orleans District and the National Geodetic Survey are cooperating in the establishment of a new, more reliable vertical reference datum for the region. The vertical reference datum will be critical to accurately benchmark and measure the heights of vertical protective structures in the area. This is essential for an area that has lost to subsidence as much as 1,900 square miles of wetlands since the 1930's, much of which is due to the geologic slumping effect of the Michoud fault, located in eastern New Orleans.

With much of the rebuilding effort underway, the project is faced with some new and tough policy decisions. Most notably, the estimated costs originally anticipated as \$3.1 billion in December, has since tripled to \$10 billion, leaving some to question if there are sufficient funds to protect all areas in the region. Due to the rising costs, those overseeing reconstruction in the region predict some areas of New Orleans may not be fully protected after reconstruction. The idea of not rebuilding levees in portions of New Orleans will likely stifle growth as structures would not be eligible for insurance.

By the end of the summer, FEMA should be able to submit preliminary maps for a public review and comment period. Once those maps become approved and effective, they become the base flood elevations that dictate requirements for NFIP participation (currently, the effective FIRM maps are dated 1984). Residents who have more than 50 percent damage and whose home is below the base flood elevation set 20 years ago will have to raise their house to rebuild.

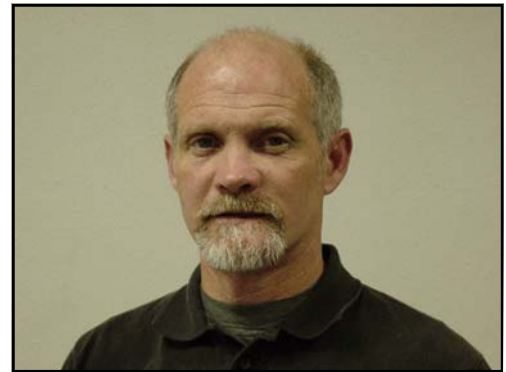
Due to the map modernization process, the 100-yr floodplain will now incorporate elevations from Katrina, Rita and other storms of the past 155 years, which is something the administration requested and funded before Katrina hit. During a March 30th press conference, one Department of Homeland Security speaker said it was possible that some homes would be required to build 30 feet above sea level (three stories high) to obtain flood insurance, but FEMA has since restated its requirements. Now, any home that was substantially damaged must rebuild only 3 feet above ground no matter what the effective BFE. Homeowners who get building permits under the current rules will not have to worry about being charged higher flood insurance rates when the new maps are issued next year. The news will surely spur development, but at what cost in the future? Will taxpayers continue to subsidize unwise construction after disasters and will FEMA continue to allow lenient requirements where life and property are knowingly at risk? Only time will tell.

## OFMA Region 4: About the Region and the Representative

OFMA is proud of each of the Regional Representatives for the hard work each volunteer commits to. Without their dedication, OFMA would not be the successful association it is today. Each Representative works very hard to promote sound floodplain management within their region by keeping Floodplain Administrators updated with current events and program issues. They provide an important point of contact for floodplain managers in each region and are here to help each of you with any support they can. OFMA would like to thank Region 4 Representative Phillip Beauchamp for providing some insight to his background and the goals he has set for the region.

Phillip W. Beauchamp, CFM, is the current Engineering Department Head holding the position of Engineer Technician. Phillip has worked with the City of Altus for the past 26 years.

Phillip began his career, and spent his first 11 years working with the Street Department. With this assignment, he conducted typical street department tasks such as construction and maintenance of streets, alleys and drainage ways. As his experience, judgment, and a keen eye for grade developed, he quickly rose through the ranks to a leadership position where he was involved in project planning, development and inspection. He recalls his first exposure to floodplain involvement was overseeing and maintenance of the city storm water drainage system, which included many miles of open ditch and enclosed underground systems.



**OFMA Region IV Representative  
Phillip Beauchamp, CFM.**

As with any town or city, the City of Altus has areas of localized flooding during given amounts of rainfall and back as early as the mid 1980's, Phillip worked closely with the City Engineer and a local engineering firm to construct one of the first major storm detention ponds in the City of Altus. It was through this close working exposure with the City Engineer that he was asked to join the Engineering Department.

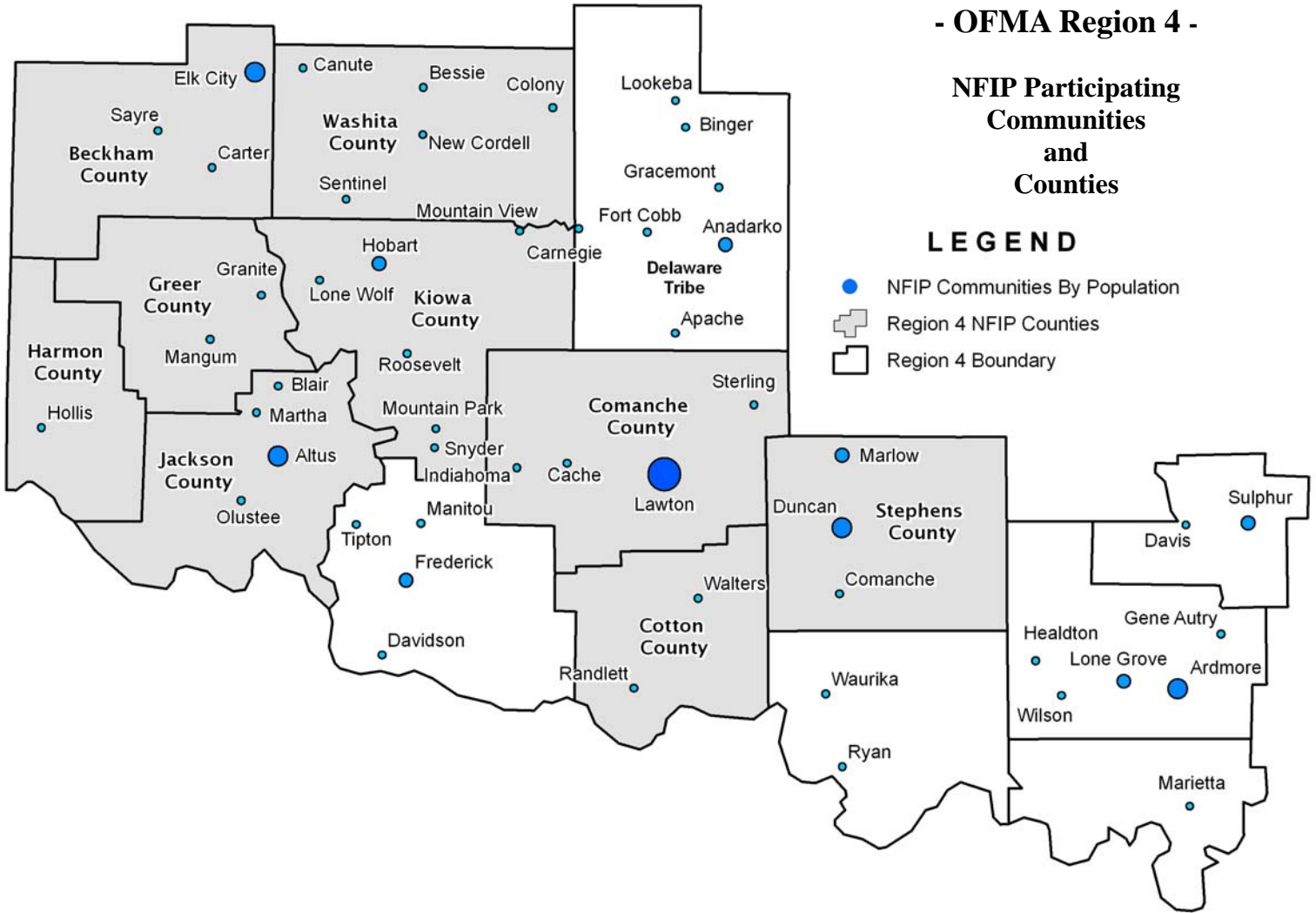
Phillip was elected to the OFMA Board of Directors as the OFMA Region 4 Representative in September of 2005 and has worked closely with Vice-Chair Gilroy as a conference committee member. For recreation Phillip regularly enjoys extreme sports such as white water rafting, technical climbing and the IPSC / IDPA shooting sports.

As the OFMA Region 4 Representative, Phillip has set goals of:

- 01) Keeping fellow Floodplain Managers motivated. He knows that most Floodplain Managers take on this very important task as an additional duty to their every day jobs and being a good FPM can seem overwhelming at times.
- 02) Working to keep our Floodplain Managers well educated and knowledgeable. We are a professional organization with a formidable task ahead of us and our greatest asset is knowing our job.
- 03) And last but certainly not least, educating the people of our great State about the best way to use, live with and protect the floodplain. Our jobs as FPM's are much easier when the people that we deal with understand the value and importance of the floodplain.

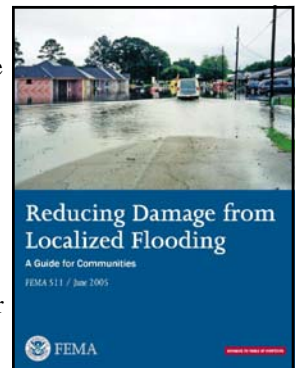
If you're a Floodplain Administrator in Region IV, Phillip would like to hear from you! Thank you Phillip for all your hard work!





**FEMA Issues New Guidebook for Localized Flood Mitigation**

Localized flood problems sometimes do not get the remedial attention they need, partly because they are not the subject of dramatic headlines or stories on the nightly news, and partly because they fall outside the scope of many local flood protection ordinances, which are geared toward the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) depicted on the community’s Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). However, as local officials, floodplain managers, and residents of those areas know, this flooding is a significant and usually recurring problem. Localized flooding can result from even minor storms. Runoff overloads the drainage ways and flows into the streets and low-lying areas. Sewers back up; yards are inundated; homes and businesses are flooded, especially basements and the lower part of first floors. Localized flooding poses most of the same problems caused by larger floods, but because it typically has an impact on fewer people and affects smaller areas, it tends to bring less State or Federal involvement such as funding, technical help, or disaster assistance. As a result, the community and the affected residents or business owners are left to cope with the problems on their own. Finally, flooding of this type tends to recur; small impacts accumulated over time can become major problems.



*Reducing Damage from Localized Flooding: A Guide for Communities* is a 180 page guide intended to help local officials in cities, towns, villages, tribes and counties in the United States understand what they can do to reduce the damage, disruption, and public and private costs that result from the shallow, localized flooding which all too often escapes the attention received by larger floods or those that are clearly mapped and are subject to floodplain development regulations. Specifically, the guide outlines the types of actions that can be taken, explains why they are important and what their potential benefits are, and provides resources for more information and assistance. The guide is free and available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency Distribution Center at PO Box 2013, Jessup, MD 20794. Call 1-(800)-480-2520.

## Deadlines approaching for State Accreditation Requirements

Fulfilling the duties of Floodplain Administrators can often be a difficult task. In addition to the minimum requirements each NFIP participating community is mandated to enforce, there can also be added Stormwater Regulations and Criteria defined in local statutes that must also be addressed and monitored closely. OFMA takes these requirements seriously and is committed to the success of each and every one of its members when it comes to managing Special Flood Hazard Areas. The OFMA Board continues to assist Floodplain Managers across the State in accomplishing their duties and remaining compliant in the National Flood Insurance Program. Regional Representatives are selected each year to act as a point of contact whenever they are needed. Each representative volunteers their time and knowledge to promoting sound floodplain management activities within their region. If you have not contacted your OFMA Regional Representative lately, please do so. They are constantly updating contact information and seeing that your community remains compliant in the National Flood Insurance Program.

One activity that is regularly occurring is the Floodplain Managers 101 Workshop. This workshop, administered by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and held each month, is continuing to accredit Floodplain Administrators with the continuing education credits now required by state law. Currently 153 FPA's have been accredited this year, but there are 225 FPA's to go before June 30, 2006. This means there are 225 communities with Floodplain Administrators that may not meet the required annual training outlined by State Law. If these requirements are not met, FEMA can and will hold those communities accountable by putting their program on probation or possible suspension. If you have not attended a Floodplain 101 workshop this year or you are unsure whether you have obtained your required CEC's to satisfy your community's membership in the NFIP, then contact your Regional Representative now! They can help you. Workshops are held each month in Oklahoma City at the OWRB office at 3800 N. Classen.



**Floodplain 101 Workshop instructors Ken Morris (top left) and Gavin Brady (bottom right) assist participants through exercises related to floodplain management during the March 8th class. Activities include permitting application and review, FEMA elevation certificates, understanding FIRM maps and determining Base Flood Elevations as well as covering the main duties of a Floodplain Administrator. Students work in pairs of two throughout the daylong workshop. Six continuing education credits are obtained by attending this workshop and each Floodplain Administrator that attends a workshop complies with the state law for annual training, administered by the OWRB.**

## Mitigation Makes Cents!

A study, released by the Multihazard Mitigation Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences, representing the most comprehensive quantitative analysis of hazard mitigation activities to date has found that money spent on reducing the risk of natural hazards is a sound investment. On average, a dollar spent by FEMA on hazard mitigation saves the nation about \$4 in future losses. In addition, FEMA grants to mitigate the effects of floods, hurricanes, tornados, and earthquakes, from 1993 to 2003, are expected to save more than 220 lives and prevent almost 4,700 injuries over approximately 50 years.



The study examined 10-years of mitigation grants (1993-2003) in eight communities around the nation. *Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: An Independent Study to Assess the Future Savings from Mitigation Activities* is the culmination of a three-year, congressionally mandated independent study. In general, key findings of the study included the identification that net benefits of FEMA's hazard mitigation program to society as a whole are positive. In addition to savings to society, the federal treasury can redirect on average, \$3.65 for each dollar spent on mitigation as a result of disaster relief costs and tax losses avoided. Furthermore, it was found that additional loss reduction activities occur in communities that have institutionalized their hazard mitigation programs.

(Continued on page 10)

OFMA is dedicated to assisting Floodplain Administrators with solving problems related to their floodplain management responsibilities. In order to achieve this, OFMA is announcing a new column in *The BFE* called "Q & A" devoted to resolving question you have. Information contained in this column should be informative for other Floodplain Administrators around the State and serve as a forum for improving the knowledge base of our OFMA members. If you have a question that needs to be answered or want to highlight lesser known aspects of Floodplain Management, submit your question to *The BFE* Editor so that it may be shared for the benefit of others facing similar challenges.



- **Does your community have an EPA Waiver Requirement on your community's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance?**
- **Has your community received federal funds from the EPA since 1982 to upgrade your community's sewage treatment plant?**

If so, this could be your hammer in protecting your floodplains natural and beneficial functions. Let's explain a bit further... Executive Order 11988 states that federal dollars can not encourage development in the Special Flood Hazard Area. More specifically, "federal agencies must avoid the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development where ever there is a practicable alternative". In order to adhere to this, the EPA required any community that has received federal funds to improve, upgrade or construct a sewage treatment plant since 1982 agree that "wastewater generated by development located in the 100 year floodplain shall not be transported or treated by the project facilities for a period of 50 years." In short, if your community received federal funds to improve a sewage treatment plant after 1982, any development in your FEMA regulatory floodplains can not be serviced by that water treatment plant for 50 years. By receiving these funds, this requirement is in your regulations. This is known as an EPA Waiver requirement and it is in your community's flood damage prevention ordinance (FDPO). It was mandated in 1982 under the Guidelines for the Construction Grants Program as a grant condition in the community's grant agreement. A waiver can be granted, only if the owner/developer can sufficiently show that the natural environment in the 100-year floodplain would be preserved. So, does your community's FDPO contain a U.S. EPA Waiver Requirement? If so, this could be your hammer in protecting your floodplains natural and beneficial functions and not violate Executive Order 11988.



## Web Sites

- OFMA** [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org)  
**ASFPM** [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)  
**OWRB** [www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us)  
**FEMA** [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
**OEM** [www.ok.gov/oem](http://www.ok.gov/oem)  
**Corps of Engineers (USACE)**  
[www.swt.usace.army.mil](http://www.swt.usace.army.mil)  
**U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)**  
[ok.water.usgs.gov](http://ok.water.usgs.gov)  
**Advanced Study Institute**  
[web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi](http://web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi)  
**CLOMR/LOMR Forms:**  
[www.fema.gov/fhm/frm\\_form.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/fhm/frm_form.shtm)  
**EPA NPDES Phase II site:**  
[www.epa.gov/npdes/](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/)  
**SMRC Stormwater Mgr Resource Center:**  
[www.stormwatercenter.net](http://www.stormwatercenter.net)  
**FEMA Official NFIP Site:**  
[www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)  
**Link to: 44 CFR Ch. I (10-1-02 Edition)**  
[http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/fr/waisidx\\_02/44cfrv1\\_02.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/fr/waisidx_02/44cfrv1_02.html)  
**Webmaster:** Tinna Song-Wallis  
[stsong@cox.net](mailto:stsong@cox.net)

## Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **Floodplain 101**; May 2, 2006. OWRB 3800 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800; website [www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us)
- **Floodplain 202**; May 3 (Bartlesville), May 16th (McAlester), May 18th (OKC), May 23rd (Woodward), May 25th (Lawton) Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800; website [www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us)
- **AFMA Spring Workshop**; April 27-28, 2006; Jacksonville, AR. Contact <http://www.arkansasflood.com/>
- **2006 National Flood Conference**; May 7-10, 2006. Wyndham Philadelphia at Franklin Plaza; Philadelphia, PA. Contact: Catherine King FEMA Mitigation Division. Website: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- **AWRA - GIS and Water Resources IV**; May 8-10, 2006 Contact: Patricia A. Reid (540) 687-8390 American Water Resources Association website: [www.awra.org/meetings/Houston2006/](http://www.awra.org/meetings/Houston2006/)
- **World Environmental and Water Resources Congress**; May 21-25, 2006 Omaha, NE. Hosted by the Environmental Water and Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Contact [jdailey@asce.org](mailto:jdailey@asce.org)
- **ASFPM Annual Conference; Floodplain Management Crossroads**; June 11-16, 2006; Albuquerque, NM. [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)
- **Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts (E194)**; Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, MD. Contact (800) 238-3358 or [www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/](http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/).
- **OFMA 16th Annual Conference**; September 18-20, 2006, University of Oklahoma Conference Center, Norman, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org).

## 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.



### New Elevation Certificate Approved

On August 18, 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency published a notice inviting the general public and other Federal agencies to present comments on the proposed revised Elevation Certificate (EC). Comments were allowed for 60 days from the date of the notice. OFMA Mapping Committee members met at the 2005 Annual Conference to review the proposed changes and offered comments, published in *The BFE* Fall 2005 newsletter, regarding the requirement of photographs and the area calculations below the first finished floor.

FEMA's new Elevation Certificate was approved for use, effective February 13, 2006, through February 28, 2009. The new form has been revised and now requires the certifier to provide the square footage of the enclosed area below the elevated floor and at least two photographs of the building, if the EC is being used to obtain flood insurance.

The new EC will be phased in on a voluntary basis until December 31, 2006. Although the old version of the form is no longer available for distribution, existing copies may be used until the end of 2006. Elevations certified on or after January 1, 2007, must be submitted on the new form and must include photographs. Changes include:

- The format of the EC has been modified slightly to include all building description related items in Section A, dedicating Section C to building elevation information.
- The instructions of the new form have been modified to reflect the changes and to provide better guidance for completing the form.
- Two pages have been added for attaching two or more color photographs of the building. Photographs must be a minimum of 3" x 5" and may be digital or analog.

An electronic version of the form and instructions are available on the FEMA website at [http://www.fema.gov/doc/nfip/elevcert\\_template.dot](http://www.fema.gov/doc/nfip/elevcert_template.dot).

### Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

#### Vision

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training, and service to Oklahomans.

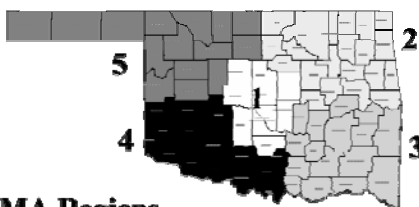
#### Mission

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  
 Mapping and Engineering  
 Education/Legislative  
 Certification  
 Conference

Dues Schedule:  
 First-Year dues for joining OFMA are listed below. The fiscal year for membership starts October 1<sup>st</sup> and ends September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Full Membership	\$ 30.00
Student Membership	15.00
Associate Membership	20.00
Agency Membership	50.00
(Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)	
Corporate Sponsor	100.00



## Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

**Mike Mathis, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator**

I want to thank the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Training Cadre. In particular, Bill Smith has been invaluable to the OWRB and our accreditation program. With Jack Graham, of FEMA, still on disaster duty in Texas, Bill has been helping us teach the Floodplain Management 101 workshops this past year. Bill is also developing a short two-hour special workshop that will be offered later this year through each of the five OFMA Regions. For more information about this opportunity, contact your OFMA Regional Representative.

I also want to encourage all Oklahoma communities participating in the NFIP to become accredited prior to June 2006. The first accreditation year is quickly coming to a close and, already, 153 administrators have become accredited; only 225 to go. This new accreditation law has created an opportunity for community officials to gain a clear understanding of their role and the responsibility of NFIP participation. This educational effort also allows our community leaders to learn how they play a key role in reducing future flood losses through implementation of a sound permitting system.

However, these workshops are not just for local floodplain administrators. Training staff has trained city council members, county commissioners, state legislators, insurance agents, floodplain boards, reporters, and concerned citizens. Monthly floodplain workshops in Oklahoma City have far-reaching benefits beyond just accreditation. These training workshops lead to improved local programs and they help integrate the No Adverse Impact approach to daily floodplain management.

In May, our training staff will take Floodplain Management 101 and 202 on the road in Bartlesville on May 4, McAlester on May 16, Oklahoma City on May 18, Woodward on May 23, and Lawton on May 25. Specific workshop locations, as well as easy enrollment, are available on the OWRB's Web site at [www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us). And I remind you that these workshops are free. Joe Remondini, of the Tulsa Corps of Engineers, is facilitating each of the 202 Workshops, all featuring the Map Modernization Program. The 202 Workshops will also provide a valuable advanced program for CFMs to earn CECs and will provide training in NAI, mitigation, master drainage planning and OWRB "hot topics."

Last but not least, it is time to begin planning for the Sixteenth Annual OFMA Conference, September 18-20 in Norman. The conference planning committee, chaired by Laureen Gilroy, has some preliminary information posted on the OFMA web site. So please check out what is in store for the premier annual OFMA event and mark your calendars. Thanks and I look forward to seeing you in the near future.



*(Continued from page 7)*

The analysis distinguished between project and process mitigation activities. Project activities being "brick-and-mortar" style actions and process activities being institutional capital improvements such as code enhancement and community awareness campaigns. Process mitigation activities, particularly over the short term, tend to be difficult to predict and quantify, but with sensitivity analyses, can be validated. Overall, the study estimated that societal benefits from FEMA mitigation grants during the period studied had a discounted present value of \$14 billion compared to the \$3.5 billion value of the resources employed for an overall benefit-cost ratio of 4:1. The study also found that additional mitigation activities percolated throughout the communities in the form of synergistic activities, which were ultimately attributable to FEMA grants. The study found the average benefit-cost ratio for all FEMA flood-related grants is 5:1. Wind related grants resulted in an average cost-benefit ratio of 3.9:1 and earthquake related grants at 1.5:1.

Overall, the study concluded mitigation is sufficiently cost-effective to warrant federal funding on an ongoing basis both before disasters and during post-disaster recovery; mitigation is most effective when carried out on a comprehensive, communitywide, and long-term basis and continuing analysis of the effectiveness of mitigation activities is essential for building resilient communities. Let's hope Congress takes this study to heart and restores the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program back to 15% from 7.5% when it reviews a Stafford Act Modification bill later this year. The two-volume study report is available for free download at <http://www.nibs.org/MMC/mmchome.html>.



## OFMA'S CORPORATE PARTNERS



### AMEC

Dennis Lawlor  
3601 SW 28th St., Ste. 209  
Topeka, KS 66614  
785 272-6830

### Benham

Barend Meiling, PE, CFM  
One West Third St., Suite 100  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
918 492-1600

### Carter & Burgess, Inc.

Brian Bannister CFM  
10001 Broadway Extension,  
Suite 100  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
405 810-8254

### Cinnabar Service Company

Terry Young  
5121 South Wheeling Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
918 742-0082

### Crafton Tull and Assoc., Inc.

Phil Hagen  
235 North MacArthur Blvd  
Oklahoma City, OK 73127  
405 787-6270

### Cyntergy AEC

Robert Day, P.E.  
320 South Boston, 12th Floor  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
918 877-6000

### Dewberry Design

Andrew Cueto, P.E.  
1350 South Boulder, Suite 600  
Tulsa, OK 74119  
918 295-5263

### Eagle Consultants, Inc.

Satish Dasharathy  
2803 South Bryant Avenue  
Edmond, OK 73013  
405 844-3900

### FTN Associates, Ltd.

Conrad Battreal, PE, CFM  
3 Innwood Circle, Suite 220  
Little Rock, AR 72211  
501 225-7779

### Grand River Dam Authority

Robert W. Sullivan, Jr.  
P.O. Box 409  
Vinita, OK 74301-0409  
918 256-5545, x4467

### Greenhorne & Design

Vince DiCamillo CFM  
6110 Frost Place  
Laurel, MD 20707  
301 982-2898

### Guy Engineering

Julie Guy P.E., CFM  
10759 East Admiral Place  
Tulsa, OK 74116  
918 437-0282

### Hydropower International

Services; Inter-National  
Consultancy, LLC  
Bill Smith P.E., CFM  
28508 W. 41st St.  
Mannford, OK 74044  
918 865-6977

### JGVE, Inc.

Donald D. Vick, PE  
124 NW 10th St., Suite 101  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103  
405 236-8313

### Meshek and Associates, Inc.

Janet K. Meshek, P.E., CFM  
P.O. Box 636  
20 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sand Springs, OK 74063  
918 241-2803

### Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.

Bart Standley  
16225 Park Ten Place, #420  
Houston, TX 77084-5142  
281 579-4579

### Myers Engineering

Bill Myers, President  
116 Northwest 132<sup>nd</sup>  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112  
405 755-5325

### Oklahoma Municipal League

201 N.E. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-  
3199  
405 528-7515

### Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors

Burk Cornelius  
13905 Twin Ridge Road  
Edmond, OK 73034  
405 721-7222

### R.D. Flanagan & Associates

Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM  
2745 East Skelly Dr., Suite 100  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
918 749-2696

### Sheridan Engineering

John F. Sheridan, PhD, P.E., CFM  
P.O. Box 219  
Haskell, OK 74436  
918 482-3417

### Smith Roberts Baldischwiler, LLC

Mathew Smith, P.E., CFM  
25 S. Oklahoma Ave., Suite 400  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
405 840-7094

### Swift Water Resources Engineering, LLC

Mark S. Swift, P.E., CFM  
9 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 301  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
918 582-1380

### University of Oklahoma

Baxter Vieux, Phd., P.E.  
202 West Boyd, Room 334  
Norman, OK 73019  
405 325-3600

### URS

Michelle Barnett, P.E., CFM  
1437 South Boulder, Suite 660  
Tulsa, OK 74119  
918 582-2552

### Utley & Associates

Marc Utley, P.E.  
3500 South Boulevard,  
Suite D-1  
Edmond, OK 73013  
405 341-9555

### Vieux & Associates, Inc.

Jean Vieux, President  
350 David L Boren Blvd  
Suite 2500  
Norman, OK 73072  
405 325-1818

### Watershed Concepts

Richard Frithiof, P.E.  
811 Barton Springs Road,  
Suite 811  
Austin, TX 78704  
512 435-5367

### WK Morris Consulting, LLC

Ken Morris, CFM  
510 Elmcrest Drive  
Norman, OK 73071  
405 530-8861





# The B.F.E.

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TULSA, OK  
PERMIT NO. 398

## Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

PO Box 8101  
Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

Change Service Requested

## Spring 2006

### Funding Acknowledgement

Funds to produce *The B.F.E.* come in part from the National Flood Insurance Program, State Support Services Element of the Community Assistance Program, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

## Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2005-2006

### Ex Officio:

Mr. Mike Mathis, PE  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
3800 North Classen Blvd  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
Phone: (405) 530-8800  
Fax: (405) 530-8900  
E-mail: memathis@owrb.state.ok.us

### Chair:

Mr. Rex Hennen, CFM  
City of Shawnee  
PO Box 1448  
Shawnee, OK 74802-1448  
Phone: (405) 878-1506  
Fax: (405) 878-1587  
E-mail: rhennen@shawneek.org

### Vice Chair:

Ms. Laureen Gibson Gilroy, CFM  
City of Tulsa  
200 Civic Center, Room 515  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
Phone: (918) 596-2859  
Fax: (918) 596-1869  
E-mail: lgilroy@cityoftulsa.org

### Secretary:

Ms. Ellen Stevens, Ph.D, PE  
Painter & Associates  
1235 Sovereign Row, Ste. C-6  
Oklahoma City, OK 73108  
Phone: (405) 488-0714  
Fax: (405) 488-0713  
E-mail: ellenphdpe@aol.com

### Treasurer:

Ms. Carolyn Schultz, CFM  
Corps of Engineers  
1645 S. 101<sup>st</sup> E. Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74128  
Phone: (918) 669-4919  
Fax: (918) 669-7546  
E-mail: carolyn.schultz@usace.army.mil

### Region 1 Representative:

Ms. Leslie Lewis, PE, CFM  
ODOT  
200 NE 21st Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
Phone: (405) 521-6500  
Fax: (405) 522-0134  
E-mail: llewis@odot.org

### Region 2 Representative:

Mr. Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM  
City of Broken Arrow  
220 S. 1st Street  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
Phone: (918) 259-2400 ext. 5241  
Fax: (918) 259-8453  
E-mail: jbigby@brokenarrowok.gov

### Region 3 Representative:

Mr. Mickey Douglas, CFM  
Seminole Nation Environmental Protection  
P.O. Box 1603  
Seminole, OK 74818  
Phone: (405) 382-5112  
Fax: (405) 382-3211  
E-mail: douglasmickey@sbcglobal.net

### Region 4 Representative:

Mr. Phillip Beauchamp, CFM  
City of Altus  
220 East Commerce  
Altus, OK 73521  
Phone: (580) 481-2228  
Fax: (580) 481-2203  
E-mail: engineering@cityofaltus.org

### Region 5 Representative:

Ms. Cindy Tubbs, CFM  
City of Enid  
PO Box 1768  
Enid, OK 73072  
Phone: (580) 234-0400  
Fax: (580) 234-8946  
E-mail: ctubbs@enid.org

### Past Chair:

Mr. Jim Coffey, CFM  
City of Bixby  
PO Box 70  
Bixby, OK 74008  
Phone: (918) 366-0427  
Fax: (918) 366-4416  
E-mail: jcoffey@olp.net

### Honorary Board Member:

Mr. Joe Remondini, PE, CFM  
Corps of Engineers  
1645 S. 101<sup>st</sup> E. Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74128  
Phone: (918) 669-7198  
Fax: (918) 669-7546  
E-mail: joseph.remondini@usace.army.mil

### Honorary Board Member:

Mr. Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM  
R.D. Flanagan & Associates  
2745 East Skelly Drive, Suite 100  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
Phone: (918) 749-2696  
Fax: (918) 749-2697  
E-mail: rdflanagan@rdflanagan.com

### Honorary Board Member:

Mr. Hank Elling  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
PO Box 886  
Lawton, OK 73502  
Phone: (580) 248-7762  
Fax: (580) 248-0737  
E-mail: hcelling@owrb.state.ok.us

### BFE Editor:

Ms. Janet K. Meshek, PE, CFM  
Meshek & Associates, Inc.  
P.O. Box 636  
Sand Springs, OK 74063  
Phone: (918) 241-2803  
Fax: (918) 241-9245  
E-mail: jmeshek@meshekengr.com

The B.F.E. is published by the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association. 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 Editor, "The B.F.E.", P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101.