

Save the date for
19th Annual
OFMA
Conference

Stillwater,
Oklahoma

September
20–23, 2009
(See Agenda
on Page 6-7)

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The B.F.E.*

*Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 13– Summer 2009

August 2009

19TH ANNUAL OFMA CONFERENCE (SEP 20-23, 2009)—BY DR. ELLEN STEVENS

“Smart Development—Good for Floodplains, Good for Everyone”

Come explore the many ways that promoting responsible development can protect our floodplains and provide many other benefits to our communities.

“Green” conference topics will include Developing No Adverse Impact Drainage Policies, Low Impact Development, Flood Control Case Studies, and Watershed Restoration. Also keep up with the latest developments in environmental management through sessions on the new Phase II regulations and COE regulatory programs.

For community floodplain administrators, there will be sessions on Insurance and ICC, Administering A-Zones, and Improving your CRS Rating. For anyone who has gone or will go through the Map Mod process, there will be a special post-conference session on using the DFIRM database.

City and private practice engineers and developers will benefit from sessions on analysis tools, designing BMPs, and a special post-conference session on tools and techniques for plan review.

Tuesday afternoon we will take a break from sitting indoors and offer tours of the USDA Hydraulics Lab and the Teal Ridge Wetlands.

The conference offers 12 CECs which apply toward CFM renewal or floodplain

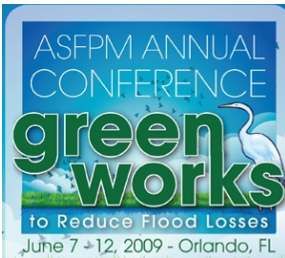
manager accreditation. Also, many professional boards accept these hours to fulfill their requirements.

A highlight of every conference is recognizing the accomplishments of floodplain managers and OFMA members through the OFMA Awards. And don't miss the ever-popular Hospitality Room and Vendor Social!



Enjoy the Historic Student Union and the Contemporary Alumni Center, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma.





Following up on ASFPM's theme "green works", our 19th OFMA Annual Conference will focus on "Smart Development - Good for Floodplains, Good for Everyone"

Join us for an in depth look at floodplain issues past, present and future as well as management applications. If you haven't made your reservations, do so now.

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR—BY CLARK WILLIAMS

It's summer, it's hot, it's not going to rain or flood again - is it?

We have a big agenda ahead of us and we just concluded one - the Orlando-ASFPM Annual Conference "Green Works." Over 1,300 floodplain officials, managers, and consultants were in attendance at the Rosen Centre Hotel. Seventeen OFMA members including Team Captains for the ASFPM May 16-21 Conference entitled "Building Blocks of Floodplain Management" to be held at the Oklahoma City Cox Center and hosted by us - that's us - OFMA, attended. All OFMA members should make the effort to attend the May 16-21 ASFPM Oklahoma City Conference event!

A big "Tip of the Hat" goes to Bill Smith for his tremendous efforts of putting together the OFMA ASFPM Oklahoma Team booth as well as the OFMA members

promoting the 2010 ASFPM Conference, and Oklahoma, Oklahoma City and Bricktown. Bill will provide more about the ASFPM 2010 Conference and planning in this issue.

In addition to Bill's efforts, Ron Flanagan, Dr. Ellen Stevens and Amy Brandley are to be commended for the outstanding presentation of abstracts they gave at the Conference. This is a plus for OFMA as it provides our national association members insight into the professionalism and expertise of our membership in floodplain management matters.

Following up on ASFPM's theme "Green Works", our 19th OFMA Annual Conference will focus on "Smart Development - Good for Floodplains, Good for Everyone" September 20-23, 2009, at Oklahoma State University. Join us for an in depth look at floodplain issues past, present and



future as well as management applications. If you haven't made your reservations do so now.

Watch your email and watch our website for amendments to our Bylaws regarding corporate dues and committee structure. No major changes are proposed for the committee structure, just incorporating the existing committee structure into the Bylaws. These amendments will be considered at our business meeting after lunch

(Continued on page 3)



Photo of OFMA attendees to ASFPM 2009, in Orlando, Florida.

June 7-12, 2009

(Continued from page 2)

on Tuesday, September 22nd, the first day of fall, 2009.

FEMA CAP meeting was held in Denton, TX, at Region VI with an insightful look at code compliance issues from FEMA HQ. Additionally, OFMA leadership had the chance to share status, programs and experience with the leadership from Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico and Texas. While at FEMA, we met with Ross Richardson and other FEMA Staff on July 21nd to discuss FEMA financial support for 2010. Bill Smith, Past Chair, has noted that we have volunteers from Arkansas and a \$2,500 donation from Texas for the Welcome Fest and sponsorship for water and lunches on golf tournament.

ASFPM 2010 Team Captains have been and are preparing for the Conference under the able leadership of Bill Smith. Plans and programs were submitted to Bill Smith at a meeting at OWRB on July 9th. ASFPM staff will meet with Team Captains August 11th to finalize much of the 2010 events.

OFMA continues to improve via some corporate changes. Based upon our 501 (c) (3) status, contributions to OFMA are deductible under section 170 of the Code. We are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devices, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code.

We are incorporated under the laws of Oklahoma and the Board now has D&O and E&O insurance.

What this means besides OFMA's Vision and Mission is that we are a good candidate for sponsorship; which improves the scope and reach of our programs.

If you know of a good sponsor candidate please contact the OFMA Board, your Regional Representative, Ken Morris or myself and we will be glad to talk with them.

Lastly, the DRT remains ready and able to respond to a disaster. It is more than able due to the efforts of Bill Smith and Tom Leatherbee. Although not much has happened event-wise, the DRT continues to become better equipped.

DIRECTOR'S DESK NOTES—BY KEN MORRIS, OFMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wow! What a great week in Orlando at the 33rd Annual Conference for the Association of State Floodplain Managers. The theme was "Green Works to Reduce Flood Losses." I have been a member of ASFPM since 1984, and I have to tell you, this was the best conference yet! You know I am a positive person and I need very little incentive to be motivated, but I believe that the more involved you are with a program, the more rewarding it is to you. This national conference was the best one I have attended in 25 years, and a big part of that was the fact that OFMA had 17 members in attendance. A great big Oklahoma "thank you" goes to Bill Smith, Clark Williams, Ellen Stevens, Amy Brandley, Carolyn Schultz, Phillip Beauchamp, Bill Robison, Dee Robison, Ruth Walters, Jeff Bigby, Anna Waggoner, Janet Meshek, Ron Flanagan, Joe Remondini, Kent Wilkins, and of course Gavin Brady. What a presence in Orlando for OFMA!

Bill Smith, with his cowboy hat and "yee haw"-yell, gave an excellent introduction for the Oklahoma Team. The Oklahoma Promo table was adjacent to the conference registration booth and saw a lot of action from future conference attendees from across the US as well as numerous other countries. We provided OFMA ball point pens, pen-

cils, key chains, and note pads, as well as Oklahoma City pencils, pens, tattoos and several OKC brochures and maps. The OKC video that was running all day on our new reverse screen proved very valuable in attracting interest to our State Capitol City. The Rose Rock collection at the booth attracted much attention as well. A special thanks to the Oklahoma City Convention Center for allowing Betheny to accompany us to Orlando to promote the 2010 conference.

By now you must have noticed I am very excited about the 34th Annual ASFPM National Conference, May 16-21, 2010, "Building Blocks of Floodplain Management." I am extremely proud for OFMA, our many partners, and Oklahoma City to be hosting this "crème de le crème" floodplain management conference. Please mark your calendars now and look for more information on the conference as we progress towards that historic date.

Sincerely, Ken Morris



NFIP EVALUATION REPORTS — BY REBECCA QUINN, CFM, ASFPM

“ If you’re as busy as the rest of us, you probably haven’t found the time to plow through the several reports that make up the NFIP Evaluation Reports.

Thirteen reports were released between 2001 and 2006. Not surprisingly, the findings and recommendations have started to influence our floodplain management activities.”

Rebecca Quinn

If you’re as busy as the rest of us, you probably haven’t found the time to plow through the several reports that make up the NFIP Evaluation Reports. Thirteen reports were released between 2001 and 2006. Not surprisingly, the findings and recommendations have started to influence our floodplain management activities.

Two of the NFIP Evaluation Reports contain the same statement: “The success of the NFIP depends on communities ensuring that buildings and other development within their jurisdictions are constructed and maintained according to these standards so that flood losses will be minimized.” This same statement also appears in FEMA’s FY09 guidance for the Community Assistance Program through which funding is provided to states to “provide technical assistance to NFIP communities and to evaluate community performance.”

Since my early days as Maryland’s NFIP State Coordinator (mid-80s!) I’ve been a big believer in the value of Community Assistance Visits (CAVs). Nothing beats getting to know community officials in person and seeing what they face on a daily basis. I’ll bet that every state employee and FEMA staffer who has conducted CAVs will tell you

the same thing: every visit is a great opportunity to sort out the many misunderstandings of the basic requirements of the NFIP.

The FY09 CAP guidance goes on to highlight a finding of the NFIP Evaluation Report, An Evaluation of Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program Part B: Are Minimum Building Requirements Being Met? The field inspections and surveys of a sample of post-FIRM buildings in communities across the country indicate that we’re getting the Lowest Floor elevated to or above the Base Flood Elevation most of the time. Many of us have spent our careers working toward this result, and I was greatly encouraged to see it confirmed by research. More recently, I’ve heard that the majority of post-FIRM buildings insured by the NFIP are rated as having their lowest floors above the BFE.

However, that same NFIP Evaluation Report also points out that we’ve been missing some of the other details that go into making buildings compliant. Specifically, just over half of the “violations” identified involved noncompliant mechanical/utility equipment and flood openings.

FEMA recently issued revised Technical Bulletin, TB-1, Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclo-

tures Below Elevated Buildings in Special Flood Hazard Areas (see announcement in the September issue of News & Views). My suggestion for state folks and community officials is to download this bulletin and read it. Read it before you issue the next permit for an enclosure, crawlspace, or accessory structure in any A Zone. And definitely read it before your next CAV because FEMA expects greater attention to be focused on enclosures during these visits.

There’s another factor at play when it comes to enclosures and flood openings that should prompt closer attention to these aspects of compliant buildings. The Write-Your-Own companies and underwriters are starting to pay more attention to enclosures. I expect this also is a direct result of the NFIP Evaluation Report. In particular, now that Elevation Certificates include photographs, they’re paying attention to flood openings - the number, net open area, and height above grade (see the revised TB-1 for guidance on these aspects of openings) and whether acceptable documentation is provided if engineered openings are installed (individual certification prepared for the building or an Evaluation Report issued by the ICC Evaluation Service).

Local officials may be aware

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NFIP 2009 BIENNIAL REPORT— FROM ASFPM

According to the May 2009 Issue of News&Views by ASFPM, FEMA began to distribute the NFIP 2009 Biennial Report forms during the week of April 20-24, 2009, for the calendar years 2007 and 2008. As in past years, the mailing contains a cover letter, addressed to the Chief Executive Officer or Floodplain Administrator of the community; a Biennial Report form; and an informational brochure that provides important information on how to complete the forms and keeps local communities up to date on the latest programs and initiatives in the National Flood

Insurance Program (NFIP).

The completed NFIP Biennial Report needs to be submitted no later than September 30, 2009. As in past years, local community officials have several ways in which to provide their NFIP Biennial Report to FEMA:

- Online at <http://www.floodmaps.net/br2009/default.asp>;
- Mail the completed report to FEMA, Biennial Report Coordinator, 3601 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304; or

- Call the Biennial Report Coordinator toll free at 1-877-336-2114, or fax the completed report to 1-877-634-7271.

The NFIP Biennial Report is an important tool that gathers data that helps FEMA respond to the on-going changes that occur in each participating community's flood hazard area.

Communities should call the Biennial Report Coordinator at 1-877-336-2114 if they have any questions while gathering, completing, or submitting their data.

FEMA distributes the NFIP 2009 Biennial Report forms during the week of April 20-24, 2009 for the calendar years 2007 and 2008.

ASFPM 2010 CONFERENCE— BY BILL SMITH, OFMA ASFPM CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

In preparation for the 2010 ASFPM National Floodplain Managers Conference in Oklahoma City (May 16-21, 2010), the OFMA Local Host Coordinator and most of the OFMA Team Captains descended upon Orlando in true Oklahoma fashion.

Leading the group was Bill Smith - Local Host Coordinator, with Amy Brandley - Volunteer Coordinator and Bill's Assistant; Ken Morris - Field Tour Captain, Clark Williams - Spouse Tour Captain; Phillip Beauchamp - Transportation Captain; Gavin Brady and Bill Robison - Co-Golf Tournament Captains; Ellen Stevens and Ruth Walters - Thursday Night Event Captains (Ellen

is also the Concierge Captain); Anna Wagoner - Memorabilia Sales Captain; Carolyn Schultz - Registration.

In addition to our Captains, OFMA was represented by Ron Flanagan with a paper presentation; Janet Meshek, Dee Robison, Joe Remondini, Kent Wilkins, and Jeff Bigby (winner of last year's free registration drawing). Betheny Grove from the Oklahoma City Visitor's Bureau also attended a portion of the conference to support with our Promotion Booth. Both Bill Smith and Ellen Stevens also presented papers at the conference, and Dee Robison and Amy Brandley sub-

mitted Posters that were displayed in the conference corridor.

During the week that we were in Orlando, the Promotion Team manned the Promo Booth, decorated in blue and white gingham, "barbed wire" and helium cowboy boots. We distributed literature about Brick Town, promoted the 2010 conference, gave out "trinkets and candy", and presented videos of both the OKC promotion and the OFMA DRT Program. Bill Smith formally accepted the invitation for the 2010 Conference in his cowboy hat and boots; presented a Welcome Plaque to Chad Ross - ASFPM Conference Coordina-

tor; and taught the 1300 registrants how to say "Yee Ha", and "Ya'll". Bill also drew names for gift certificates donated by the Brick Town Association to five lucky winners to enjoy food and beverage in 2010.

The ASFPM website will have hotel reservation information by about mid-July and the registration for 2010 will be available shortly after the first of the year, so stay tuned to the OFMA website as there will be a link.

W. B. "Bill" Smith, P.E., CFM

OFMA 2010 Local Host Conference Chairman

2009 OFMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

Time	Event	CECs
Sunday, September 20		
9 - 11:30 am	Board Meeting - Atherton Board Room	
12:00 - 5 pm	Golf Tournament	
evening	Hospitality Room - Atherton	
Monday, September 21		
9 - 10:30 am	Opening Plenary Session - OSU Alumni Center	1.5
10:30 - 10:45	Break	
10:45 - 11:45	Opening Plenary Session - OSU Alumni Center	1
11:45 - 1 pm	Lunch in Exhibit Hall - OSU Student Union	
1 - 2 pm	Breakout Sessions - Case Study Rooms - OSU SU	1
	New Developments in Phase II Regulations - Richard Smith INCOG	
	How to Join/Move up in CRS Program - Gavin Brady	
	404 Permits, WQ Regulation - Andy Commer COE	
2 - 2:30 pm	Exhibitor Introductions - OSU SU	.5
2:30 - 4 pm	Breakout Sessions - Case Study Rooms - OSU SU	1.5
	"Rooftops to Rivers" Bill Robison	
	Analytical Tools to Evaluate Impacts of Development - Bill Smith	
	Stream Trailer - Marley Beam	
4 - 5 pm	Committee and 1 st timers - Case Study Rooms - OSU SU	1
6 - 9 pm	Vendors Social Casino Night at Stillwater Elks Lodge	
evening	Hospitality Room - Atherton	
Tuesday, September 22		
8 am	Coffee in Exhibit Hall	
8:30 - 10	Breakout Sessions - Case Study Rooms - OSU SU	1.5
	Case Studies in Flood Control Projects, Buyouts, Easements, Watershed Restoration - Jim Coffey	
	Using Green Development to Promote Natural and Beneficial Uses - Ellen, Rebecca Chavez, Bill Barfield	
	Community Issues (ICC, insurance, substantial damage, etc.) - Tom Leatherbee	

2009 OFMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA—CONTINUED

Time	Event	CECs
Tuesday, September 22		
10 - 10:15	Break	
10:15 - 11:15	Breakout Sessions - Case Study Rooms - OSU SU	1
	How to Administer A Zones - Joe Remondini	
	Dam Safety - (TBD)	
	Low Impact Development (from a community administration view) - Jeff Bigby	
11:15 am - 12 pm	Officer nominations and Regional Meetings - OSU SU	
12 - 2 pm	OFMA Business Lunch - OSU Alumni Center	.5
	Student Poster Session	
2 - 2:30 pm	Afternoon plenary (intro to tours) - OSU Alumni Center	.5
2:30 - 4:30 pm	Tour of USDA Hydraulics Lab	2
	Tour of Stillwater Creek constructed wetland	
2:30 - 4:30 pm	Classroom session - TBA	2
5 - 6:30 pm	Hospitality hour in exhibit hall - OSU SU	
6:30 - 8:00 pm	Dinner and awards - SU Ballroom <i>That is ALL!!</i>	
evening	Hospitality Room - Atherton	
Wednesday, September 23		
7:30 - 8:00	Coffee in exhibit hall - OSU SU	
8 - 8:30	Exhibits closing (award exhibitor door prize)	
8:30 - 9:45	Breakout Sessions - OSU Alumni Center (divided)	1.25
	"Why am I flooding when I am nowhere near a floodplain!?" No Adverse Impact Drainage Policies and Stormwater Criteria - Janet Meshek	
	Submitted abstracts on Watershed Restoration and Stream Gaging	
10:15 - 11:30 pm	Closing plenary session - OSU Alumni Center	1.25
12 pm - 1 pm	Lunch	
1 pm - 3 pm	New Board Meeting	
1 - 5 pm	CFM Exam	
1 - 5 pm	Optional session - (additional fee) What to Look For in Reviewing Plans - Bill Robison	4
1 - 5 pm	Optional session - Training session for trainers - using the DFIRM databse.	4

VISIT WWW.OKFLOOD.ORG FOR DETAILED CONFERENCE INFORMATION INCLUDING AGENDA UPDATES, LOGGING INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORMS.

“There’s something rather cool that we’re spending less of our time struggling to get people to accept that buildings have to be elevated - and now can focus on some of these finer points of compliance.”

Rebecca Quinn

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that insurance agents and underwriters are looking at enclosures. Many owners are seeing a significant increase in their premium costs and it might be a direct result of having a noncompliant enclosure. Owners might call the building department for advice on retrofitting to bring the enclosure into compliance.

Keep this in mind when you get complaints of cost increases, the increases might be a direct result of noncompliant enclosures. Also keep in mind that sometimes the fix is easy - not enough openings? Install more. Finished materials in that foyer? Remove or replace with flood damage-resistant materials. Water heater on the floor? Raise it on a platform.

There’s something rather cool that we’re spending less of our time struggling to get people to accept that buildings have to be elevated - and now can focus on some of these finer points of compliance.

Now, back to the notion that the success of the NFIP depends on communities ensur-

ing that buildings are in compliance with the minimum requirements. This reinforces the importance of technical assistance, whether delivered through telephone/email consultations, training courses, workshops, manuals, Quick Guides, or CAVs and Community Assistance Contacts (CACs). It comes as no surprise that I believe that nothing beats the CAV (although I expect there are some local floodplain managers who might take exception to that statement!).

One of the biggest variables between state programs is the frequency of community visits. Ideally, communities with active development in their floodplains should be visited every few years. My experience in Maryland suggests that frequent visits not only made sure that community officials knew who to call, it helped them resist pressures to “soften” the requirements. I recall a number of times when a community’s floodplain manager asked me to write “one of those letters” cautioning about the importance of strictly administering the ordinance.

Now, I know that my experience is based in Maryland which is one of the smaller states - just 133 NFIP-participating communities (23 counties, Baltimore City, and 109 incorporated municipalities). And I know that many states have large numbers of communities and it’s not feasible to do CAVs every few years (I believe Pennsylvania tops the chart with nearly 2,500 communities!). Still, life would be boring if it was easy, right?

Anyway, thanks in large part to FEMA being able to increase the CAP funding levels, over the past several years many states have been able to expand their programs and staffs. When you consider where this profession was 30 years ago, we’ve come a long way. Yes, there are challenges and there will always be challenges. But what’s nice about our challenge is how good we can feel when we know our communities and our citizens are benefiting from our combined efforts to make floodplain management - and the NFIP - a success to minimize flood losses.

OFMA JOINS FACEBOOK —BY AMY BRANDLEY, OFMA SECRETARY



Add the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association to your Facebook groups! One of our goals from OFMA’s Strategic Plan 2008-2009 is to “provide current information in a timely manner through electronic means to members and common stakeholders.” Facebook offers us a fun and easy way to keep up with OFMA people, events, and information. Join discussions and keep up with what other floodplain managers are doing in their communities. Post your

questions, comments, photos, and events to the site. We are just getting started so expect the site to grow as we add new members and content. If you don’t want to post an event yourself, please email me and I will post to the site for you. Join us and stay up-to-date with OFMA on Facebook!

DRT CORNER—BY BILL SMITH, OFMA DRT COORDINATOR

It appears that we have “missed” the target this spring for the OFMA DRT to respond to any request for local assistance. THAT IS A GOOD THING!! There were some minor flooding incidents during the repetitive sweeps of fronts across Oklahoma, but most flooding was overbank, culverts, roadways, etc. Unfortunately, a life was lost in Pryor when a woman drove into floodwaters.

Our OFMA DRT Team is ready, and equipped for the next time Oklahoma is threatened by flooding or other natural disasters in a Special Flood Hazard Area. As I told you before, we received FEMA CAP funds for

our equipment and supplies. The only major item left to produce is our OFMA DRT Brochures which are being worked on at this time - hopefully to be unveiled at the OFMA Annual Conference in Stillwater in September.

Our next task is to solicit funding for reimbursable expenses for our volunteers: lodging, food, gas, etc., for our disaster responses. To that end, I am heading to FEMA on July 21st to discuss next year’s funding request that has been submitted by ORWB.

At the 2009 ASFPM Conference, I presented a paper on the OFMA DRT. I spoke with

other Associations around the country while in Orlando and discussed what the DRT does for the state. There are several states where the State Emergency Management Agency has similar volunteer programs, but none of the State Floodplain Management Associations have anything similar. Hopefully, the promo that we did at the ASFPM 2009 promo booth for the ASFPM 2010 Conference will interest other State Associations.

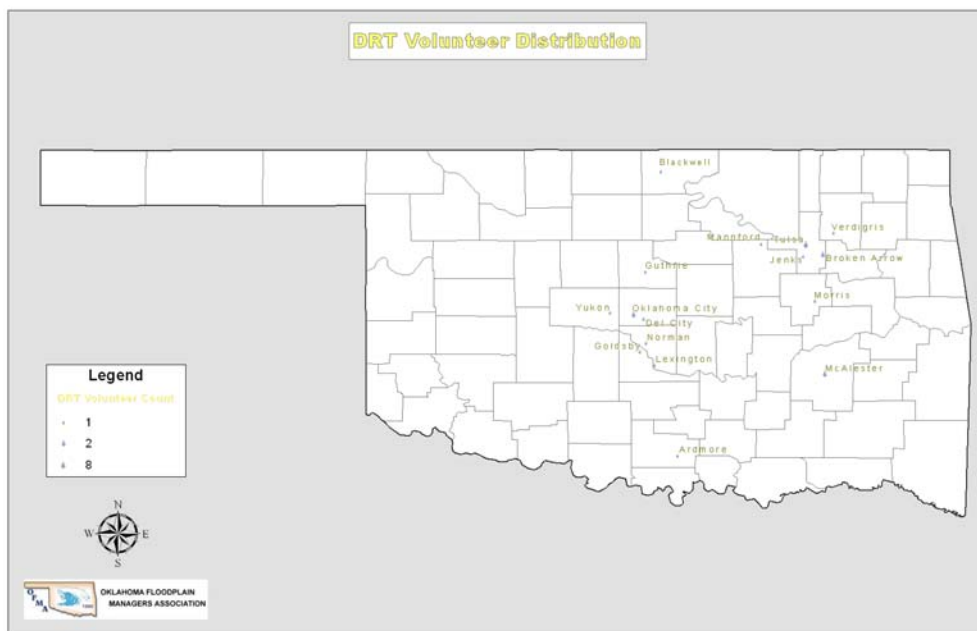
Remember, summertime is dry time and a good time to clean out the floodplain areas before the Fall 2009 and the Spring 2010 rainy seasons.

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To that end, I am heading to FEMA on July 21st to discuss next year’s funding request that has been submitted by

ORWB.”

Bill Smith



For more information on the DRT Program, please contact:

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“Effective October 1, 2009, FEMA’s Map Service Center will only produce FIRMs, Flood Hazard Boundary Maps (FHBM) and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) in a digital format. For those communities that want to continue to use paper maps, FIRM Scans and FIRMettes can still be utilized. FIRM Scans can be downloaded to a CD or DVD however it’s the actual size of the FIRM panel and would need a large scale printer to produce.”

Gavin Brady

MAP MOD TO RISK MAP – BY GAVIN BRADY, NFIP COORDINATOR

Map Modernization ends in a couple of months. A majority of Oklahoma counties have, or will soon have, updated (digital) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). When Map Mod was introduced 5 years ago, we thought most of the outdated FIRMs would be re-studied to provide a better tool for Floodplain Administrators to better regulate floodplain development. It was soon realized the Federal plan was to digitize FIRMs to provide a seamless flood map. A map that was digitized, easy to use and implement into GIS.

Approved by Congress on March 16, 2009, FEMA’s Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk Map) Multi-Year Plan outlines the goals, objectives and strategies for 2010-2014. There is still discussion as to where the primary focus will lie. Does FEMA address the mapping needs of those communities omitted with Map Mod or spend money on restudies in areas of high risk? Both need to be addressed and hopefully will. Oklahomans should learn more about Risk Map after the OWRB and OFMA attend the CAP meeting in Denton later this summer.

Big changes will also occur this fall as paper FIRMs will be taken out of production and no longer be distributed. Effective October 1, 2009, FEMA’s Map Service Center will only

produce FIRMs, Flood Hazard Boundary Maps (FHBM) and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) in a digital format. For those communities that want to continue to use paper maps, FIRM Scans and FIRMettes can still be utilized. FIRM Scans can be downloaded to a CD or DVD; however, it’s the actual size of the FIRM panel and would need a large scale printer to produce. Most Oklahoma communities are currently producing FIRMettes in their day to day operations. The OWRB and OFMA will provide training this year at our Floodplain Management workshops for those who aren’t familiar with FIRMettes.

We are now less than a year before OFMA and Oklahoma City host the 2010 Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) annual conference at the Bricktown. Oklahoma is hoping to have numerous scholarships available for Floodplain Administrators in Oklahoma to attend the conference. With a registration fee that approaches \$500, many communities cannot afford that expense. The OWRB will be meeting with FEMA to discuss the particulars and see if we can help offset some expenditure. We should know more by OFMA’s annual conference in Stillwater this September and also determine a way to fairly distribute however many scholarship applications we receive. I’ll see all of you at the annual conference.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE VISIT – BY KEN MORRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Community Assistance Visit (CAV) is one acronym most Floodplain Administrators are familiar with. Some communities welcome a CAV, while others dread the thought of participating in one. The CAV is the backbone of FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Before Map Mod, before the Community Rating System (CRS), before No Adverse Impact (NOI), before

any of these programs, there was the CAV.

While FEMA was enrolling over 15,000 NFIP communities in the 1970’s, the 1980’s came around and FEMA needed a tool to monitor floodplain management programs. FEMA agreed to allow communities to participate in the NFIP, thus making low cost federally subsidized flood insurance available to

its citizens. There was one catch however. Communities must regulate development in the Special Flood Hazard Area’s (SFHA). *Regulate* was, and still is, a nasty word, in Oklahoma and especially in the rural areas.

A CAV is performed to evaluate a specific floodplain management program. Once a community has been cho-

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sen, the OWRB contacts the Floodplain Administrators (FPA) and schedules a day to tour and document any SFHA development. Remember the definition for “development” means any man made change to improved or unimproved real estate including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials. After the tour is completed a meeting is scheduled with community officials that might include the FPA, Mayor, County Commissioners, Floodplain Board members, City or District Attorneys, Building Inspectors and anybody else associated with the floodplain management program. At this time any floodplain develop-

ment encountered during the tour is discussed and development permits are reviewed. The OWRB will also review the community’s local floodplain ordinance or regulations. One key item we pay particular attention to is the referenced adopted FIRM or FHBM. In Oklahoma, anytime a community receives a new map they are required to adopt that new map and reference the title and date in the updated ordinance. Most of the older ordinances have a statement in the ordinance that basically reads “...the current map is effective and any revisions thereto.” With guidance from the Attorney General’s office, we were instructed to remove this language and always adopt the new maps with a new ordinance or regulation. This is very time consuming but something we feel very

strongly about at the OWRB.

Oklahoma was the second State in Region VI to require annual accreditation and training with local Floodplain Administrators. The accreditation program allows us the opportunity to interact with the 382 participating Oklahoma communities at least annually. In the 1980’s, the CAV was sometimes the only opportunity the OWRB had to discuss floodplain management and that might only happen once every 5 years. While the CAV is still a valuable tool, the many other programs introduced over the years have helped bridge the gap between State and Local government. We hope to continue with that trend and build a relationship that can only aid in our quest to improve our floodplain management programs.

“In the 1980’s, the CAV was sometimes the only opportunity the OWRB had to discuss floodplain management and that might only happen once every 5 years. While the CAV is still a valuable tool, the many other programs introduced over the years have helped bridge the gap between State and Local government. We hope to continue with that trend and build a relationship that can only aid in our quest to improve our floodplain management programs.”

Ken Morris

2009 OFMA MEMBERSHIP – BY OMEED MOLLAIAN, PE, CFM, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Did you know that after years of steady growth, the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association’s membership numbers remained nearly flat in 2008?

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association brings together people with a common interest in floodplain management. Members include concerned citizens, public employees and elected officials, engineers, planners, contractors, lenders, insurance agents, real estate professionals, students, corporate partners and local, state and federal agencies.

Our objectives include promoting interest in flood damage abatement, improving cooperation among government agencies, and encouraging innovative approaches to managing Oklahoma’s floodplains. In addition, we believe a unified membership can present one strong voice to communicate with the state legisla-

ture on flood-related issues.

Our annual membership fee is only \$50.00 (which is relatively low compared to that charged by other professional associations), and we offer so much more in return.

The more members we have, the more legitimate we are to our employers, our legislators, and the general public. Please invite your fellow Floodplain Administrator to join us. The application takes less than 5 minutes to complete and can be downloaded at <http://www.okflood.org/pdf/registrationform.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carolyn Shultz at 918.669.4919 or at carolyn.schultz@usace.army.mil. You can also contact me directly at 405.254.5544 or via omollaian@meshekengr.com for further information.

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