

Save the Date!
Legislative
Reception
March 9, 2010
(page 6)

OFMA member
honored by
OEMA
(page 3)

ASFPM 2010 CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP	1
ASFPM 2010 CON- FERENCE UPDATE	1
WORDS FROM THE CHAIR	2
OFMA SPRING WORKSHOP	2
TRAINING CADRE	3
RON FLANAGAN HONORED BY OEM	3
ASFPM 2010 CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS	4
FEMA ONLINE CORUSE SCHEDULE	5
OFMA DRT CORNER	6
OFMA 2010 LEGIS- LATIVE RECEPTION	6
STATE & LOCAL PROGRAMS AS- SESSMENT	7
PLAN AHEAD FOR NEXT FLOOD	7



The B.F.E.*

*Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 15– Winter 2010

January 2010

ASFPM 2010 CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS—BY GAVIN BRADY, OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

With the 34th ASFPM Annual National Conference coming to our great State and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma floodplain management professionals will have a unique opportunity to receive training and network with officials from across the country...in our own backyard. To encourage participation, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) is pleased to announce that it has worked with FEMA and the national Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) to obtain the lowest possible registration cost.

ASFPM will offer a discounted registration rate of \$365 to state of Oklahoma government and local officials. Additionally, the OWRB, through federal FEMA funding, will offer nearly 100 registration scholarships of \$265 each, bringing the cost to the registrant down to just \$100. Application forms and information on scholarship evaluation and notification of award will be provided soon by the OWRB.

The OWRB recognizes there are many communities throughout the state that

simply don't have the budget to send their floodplain administrator to the ASFPM Annual Conference. This is a great opportunity for communities to participate in a national conference at a very low cost. Visit www.floods.org for conference registration and lodging information (cost payable by registrant) to start planning now for the ASFPM Annual National Conference, "Building Blocks of Floodplain Management", May 16-21, 2010.

Hope to see you there!

ASFPM 2010 NATIONAL CONFERENCE UPDATE—BY W. B. "BILL" SMITH P.E, CFM - LOCAL HOST COORDINATOR

We are now into 2010 and the National Conference is only 4 months away. Our Team Captains have been very diligently working on their respective task areas and much gratitude is to be given to each Captain. Our field and spouse tours are set. We have confirmed that Lt. Governor Jari Akins will give the Welcome at the Convention. Our opening ceremony is being reviewed by ASFPM. All of the

sponsor events are set and the Welcome Fest is being planned. All of the transportation issues are very capably being handled by Captain Phillip Beauchamp, and these contracts are being finalized by ASFPM. We are now having monthly Captains' telephone meetings with ASFPM. The next and final coordination meeting with ASFPM staff and the OFMA Captains is March 22, 2010. A major decision in

the past week (Jan 4th) is the resolution of scholarship funding for registration using CAP funds. OWRB, FEMA and ASFPM have resolved all issues and more information of the detailed program for scholarships will be forthcoming soon. Things are gearing up!! Please get your registration filed and get your hotel rooms scheduled. See you in May in Bricktown!!



"2002 was the year I joined OFMA and attended my first annual conference. During that meeting, I heard a lot of interesting talks and learned a lot. But the one thing that impressed me the most was the enthusiasm, the downright zeal, for protecting people and property through better floodplain management that was articulated by everyone involved. I was a convert ... on the spot."

Ellen Stevens, CFM

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR—BY DR. ELLEN STEVENS, PE, CFM

Good-bye Aughts!

The passage of time never stops amazing me. It seems like only yesterday we were stockpiling food and firewood and taking cash out of the bank. We all thought the Y2K hoopla was nonsense, but just in case... For me, and likely for most of us, the aughts included some life-altering events, some good, some bad. I don't have hard numbers, but I would bet that the majority of us reading this joined OFMA sometime during the aughts. And it won't hurt my feelings if you consider joining OFMA to fall somewhere short of life-altering.

2002 was the year I joined OFMA and attended my first annual conference. During that meeting, I heard a lot of interesting talks and learned a lot. But the one thing that impressed me the most was the enthusiasm, the downright zeal, for protecting people and property through better floodplain management that

was articulated by everyone involved. I was a convert - and signed up for the January 2003 NFIP class right then on the spot.

Maintaining that fire, that passion, for keeping people and property safe is at the core of the mission of OFMA. Our community FPAs need fire and passion to stand fast when there is pressure to look the other way. Our consultants and agency members need fire and passion to invest and stay up to date in the technology and knowledge they need to do planning studies, design projects, and otherwise support those who are on the front lines of protecting lives and property.

How can OFMA fan the fire? One way is by focusing on our members, looking for ways to improve what we are doing now and being open to providing new services that are useful to our members. To that end we are in a process of re-vamping our web site; exploring topical

issues, including using building codes to strengthen floodplain management; obtaining hazard mitigation funding; providing assistance to emergency program communities; and supporting legislation designed to protect the public and make it easier for communities to participate in the NFIP. We are always open to ideas. If you have one, please share it.

Finally, nothing generates enthusiasm more than being recognized for excellence. OFMA is committed to recognizing accomplishments in floodplain management, projects, and support of floodplain managers through the awards program. Please help us in this by making nominations. You can find descriptions of the different awards and nomination materials on our web site.

So bye aughts and let the zeal for protecting us from flooding be even stronger in the teens!

OFMA'S 2010 SPRING TECHNICAL WORKSHOP—BY TOM LEATHERBEE, CFM, VICE-CHAIR

OFMA's 2010 Spring Technical Workshop will be held on **March 2nd at MetroTech, 1900 Springlake Drive in Oklahoma City**. This year's workshop will cover a number of

topics, including a preview of the presentations that several OFMA members will be giving at the 2010 ASFPM Conference in Oklahoma City. As always, the Spring Workshop is a great

opportunity for CFMs to obtain continuing education credit.

More information on registration coming soon at www.okflood.org

OFMA TRAINING CADRE—BY W. B. “BILL” SMITH, PE, CFM, COORDINATOR

This year OFMA is totally responsible for the coordination and planning of the Advanced Training sessions. With the budget cutbacks at OWRB due to the recession impacts, OFMA is “stepping up” to assist OWRB. We are planning new presentations, with more OFMA trainers. We appreciate the efforts of each of these individuals to provide new training opportunities during the February through April time frame. Again these Advanced Training Sessions will be located around the state. A list of all training sessions is presented on both the OWRB and OFMA web sites, and we encourage you to check out the locations and dates and sign up early. New courses over the next

two years will include such topics as FIRMettes for Dummies, Green Building, Community Response Actions to Flash Floods, Low Impact Development From a Community Viewpoint, Floodplain Management in Rural Areas, Determination of a BFE in A Zones, No Adverse Impact, D-FIRMs, and Dam Safety in the Floodplain. We will continue to have the full day training in both the Tulsa and OKC area for the Substantial Damage Estimator and Letter of Map Change courses. Chris Hill of Meshek & Associates has agreed to present a special computer workshop on D-FIRMs if anyone is interested (time, location and cost to be determined). OFMA is trying to respond to the request for

new course work; however, we also have to remember that each year we have new floodplain administrators that need some of the original basic Advanced Training course such as Hydrology 101, Hydraulics 101, Basic Training the FPA, Master Drainage Planning, etc. As our organization continues to grow we are always looking for new ideas for training as well as new instructors to help carry the training to our new (and older) FPAs and OFMA members. If you are interested and have a desire to teach, please contact me and we will get you on board.



OFMA HONORARY BOARD MEMBER, MR. RONALD D. FLANAGAN, CFM, HONORED BY OEMA—TULSA WORLD (SEPTEMBER 2009)

The award goes to those who contribute “over and above” to emergency management programs and the profession.

Since his introduction to emergency management many years ago, Flanagan has been one of the most outspoken supporters of the profession. During all of his presentations he never misses the opportunity to promote emergency management and to point out the importance of a strong and active program. He works with numerous jurisdictions across the state in the course of his business and uses that opportunity to promote the local emergency management program and to encourage that community to develop, support, and promote the core principles and the activities of emergency management.

Moreover, Flanagan is always willing to visit with emergency managers, to discuss their concerns, and to offer his experiences, opinions, and support beyond his contracted duties. His actions have benefitted all of those in emergency management by drawing attention to the importance and duties of the emergency manager.

“With this award we acknowledge not only Ron Flanagan’s tireless work but also the efforts of hundreds of Oklahoma emergency managers who benefit from his advocacy,” said OEMA President and Oklahoma County Emergency Management Director David Barnes.

Others honored were Beaver County

(Continued on page 4)

Ron Flanagan, with Flanagan & Associates, was recognized for his support of and participation in emergency management activities when the Oklahoma Emergency Management Association (OEMA) presented this year’s Outstanding Contributor to Emergency Management Award. The presentation was made during the annual emergency management conference.

ASFPM 2010 OKC VOLUNTEERS —BY AMY BRANDLEY, CFM, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Thanks to all the OFMA members who signed up to volunteer at the ASFPM Oklahoma City Conference!

In March, I will have a draft schedule, and then we can start assigning positions for the conference which is May 16-21. I have sent out two emails to the volunteers on my list, so if you signed up to volunteer and didn't receive an email, please contact me so I can make sure I have your correct email address. If you have not yet signed up to volunteer and would like to help, please let me know.

There are many volunteer positions available, such as:

- monitoring rooms for break-out sessions,
- staffing the silent auction tables,
- manning the concierge booth (giving people information about OKC),
- working a tour bus,
- directing folks to activities,
- working the doors to plenaries and lunches,
- acting as ambassadors at our big Sunday Welcome Fest, and more.

We will need the most volunteers Tuesday through Thursday during the main part of the conference.

Again, a big thank you to all of you who have offered to volunteer. OFMA is really counting on our great membership to show the nation that Oklahoma has one of the best floodplain management organizations in the county. ASFPM is expecting great things from Oklahoma, and I'm ready for us to make it happen!

Amy Brandley, CFM
ASFPM 2010 Volunteer Coordinator
brandleya@canadiancounty.org
(405) 323-8712

HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO COMMUNICATE TO OUR MEMBERSHIP?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR TECHNICAL ARTICLES PUBLISHED?

Send your comments and articles to Ana Stagg, PE, CFM, at astagg@meshekengr.com, for consideration in the next edition of the BFE.

(Continued from page 3)

Commissioners Richard Cowen, Brad Raven, and CJ Rose with the Public Officials Award; and Lawton-Comanche County Emergency Management Director Clint Wagstaff with the Emergency

Management Director of the Year Award.

"These individuals represent some of Oklahoma's and the nation's best emergency management efforts," said Barnes. "They make a difference by helping to save lives and protect prop-

erty before, during, and after emergencies and disasters."

The OEMA event was held in conjunction with the Annual Emergency Management Conference, sponsored in part by the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management.

FEMA ONLINE COURSES APPROVED FOR CEC'S

VISIT CHECK [HTTP://TRAINING.FEMA.GOV/IS/](http://TRAINING.FEMA.GOV/IS/) FOR MORE INFORMATION

COURSE NUMBER AND NAME	DISCIPLINE	CECs
IS-001 Emergency Program Manager: An Orientation to the Position	Parallel	6
IS-002 Emergency Preparedness USA	Parallel	6
IS-007 A Citizen's Guide to Disaster Assistance	Parallel	6
IS-007.a A Citizen's Guide to Disaster Assistance	Parallel	6
IS-009 Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP	Core	12
IS-012 Property Acquisition for Local Communities	Parallel	6
IS-022 Are you Ready? An In Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness	Parallel	6
IS-100 Intro to the Incident Command System	Parallel	2
IS-100.a Intro to the Incident Command System	Parallel	2
IS-139 Exercise Design	Parallel	6
IS-200 ICS for Single Resources	Parallel	2
IS-200.a ICS for Single Resources	Parallel	2
IS-208 State Disaster Management	Parallel	6
IS-230 Principles of Emergency Management	Parallel	6
IS-235 Emergency Planning	Parallel	6
IS-240 Leadership and Influence	Parallel	6
IS-241 Decision Making and Problem Solving	Core	8
IS-242 Effective Communication	Core	8
IS-244 Developing and Managing Volunteers	Parallel	6
IS-263 Dam Break Analysis using HEC/HMS and HEC/RAS	Core	12
IS-271 Anticipating Hazardous Weather & Community Risk	Parallel	6
IS-279 Retrofitting Flood-Prone Residential Buildings	Core	10
IS-292 Disaster Basics	Parallel	6
IS-300 Intermediate Incident Command System	Parallel	6
IS-324 Community Hurricane Preparedness	Parallel	6
IS-362 Multi Hazard Emergency Planning	Parallel	6
IS-386 Introduction to Residential Coastal Construction	Core	12
IS-393 Introduction to Mitigation	Core	6
IS-393.a Introduction to Hazard Mitigation	Core	10
IS-394 Mitigation for Homeowners	Parallel	6
IS-394.a Protecting Your Home or Small Business from Disaster	Core	10
IS-400 Advances Incident Command System	Parallel	6
IS-600 Special Considerations for FEMA Public Assistance Projects	Parallel	4
IS-630 Intro to the Public Assistance Process	Parallel	1
IS-631 Public Assistance Operations I	Parallel	5
IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS)	Parallel	2
IS-700.a National Incident Management Systems (NIMS)	Parallel	2
IS-800 National Response Plan	Parallel	2
IS-800.b National Response Framework, In Intro	Parallel	3

“Our 2010 Legislative Reception will be held on March 9, 2010, from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm, in Rooms 412A and 412B, State Capitol ... This session is open to all OFMA members.”

Ana Stagg

OFMA DRT CORNER—BY W. B. “BILL” SMITH, PE, CFM, DRT COORDINATOR

The OFMA Disaster Response Team of volunteers continues to grow as we make presentations to our OFMA members during training sessions. At the Substantial Damage Estimator training session on January 12, 2010, we recruited two additional volunteers, bringing our total to 46. First, thank you for each of your volunteerism spirit. Second, we still have our goal at 75 volunteers, so please

keep this effort in your minds. We did not have to respond in 2009, and that is a very good thing. There were probably situations where the DRT could have assisted communities, but we were not notified of the need. So we stay prepared for the Spring 2010 flooding season -again hoping for no requests for responses, but available to assist if needed.

The ASFPM conference committee has approved the OFMA DRT to present a workshop at the 2010 National Floodplain Managers Conference in Oklahoma City. Our goal is to entice other state floodplain managers associations across the nation to create similar Disaster Response Teams in their states to assist the local floodplain administrators in times of disasters.

OFMA 2010 LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION—BY ANA STAGG, PE, CFM, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Our 2010 Legislative Reception will be held on March 9, 2010, from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm, in Rooms 412A and 412B, State Capitol. This is one of our best opportunities to voice floodplain management concerns to our legislators. This session is open to all OFMA members. If you can attend, we would love to see you then!

Although OFMA does not carry a political agenda, we do share a common plea. Of the 61 Major Federal Disasters declared since 1955 in the state of Oklahoma, 42 (over two-thirds of the events) have involved flooding. The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association was created in 1990 to encourage and support flood safe development and flood mitigation.

Some important points to consider:

- In order for citizens to have access to affordable flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), their community must agree to regulate and permit development in their floodplains through a floodplain management program.
- All federally backed mortgages for prop-

erties in floodplains require the owner to obtain flood insurance.

- Federal disaster relief dollars generally come in the form of loans, not cash, to pay for damages. Therefore, an uninsured or underinsured property owner will end up paying for the damages.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Oklahoma has endured twenty-four major disaster declarations since 2000. Fifteen, more than sixty percent, of such disasters have occurred in the past three years.

Many more storms have occurred since 2000, but they do not produce enough damage to warrant a Disaster Declaration. It is this type of storm that may be catastrophic for the uninsured. In September 2008, over 50 homes were flooded in Blackwell, Kay County and Fairview. Those property owners - with no NFIP insurance - did not receive any financial assistance for recovery efforts.

Please make time to join us on March 9, 2010, even if for just a few minutes. What you have to say is important to OFMA and to our legislators.

ASFPM TO UPDATE STATE & LOCAL PROGRAMS ASSESSMENT— DECEMBER 2009, NEWS VIEW

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) is again compiling its national tally of the practices by which state and local governments manage their floodplains. In early February, all state floodplain managers will be asked to complete a survey of their

activities and programs. The data from the survey will be analyzed and compiled into a summary report,

Floodplain Management 2010: State and Local Programs.

The ASFPM carried out similar surveys in 1989, 1992,

1995, and 2003, making the time right for an updated understanding of how state level programs have changed during the past seven years.

For more information contact ASFPM at member-help@floods.org or www.floods.org.

ASFPM [has begun] its national tally of the practices by which state and local governments manage their floodplains.

PLAN AHEAD FOR THE NEXT FLOOD—BY GAVIN BRADY, CFM, NFIP COORDINATOR

As we enter the season that usually brings Oklahoma its greatest probability for flood, I ask you one question, "Are you Ready?"

The OWRB and the Oklahoma Insurance Department will send out a mass press release acknowledging March as "Flood Insurance Month." As most of you are aware, it takes 30 days for a flood insurance policy to take effect so now is the time to purchase a policy before the April/May rains begin. In Oklahoma, most significant flooding has occurred 11 days either side of Mother's Day.

Individuals living in the floodplain have a 26% chance of flooding during a 30 year mortgage and only a 6% chance of fire, yet most have a homeowner's policy covering fire while only 11% have a flood insurance policy. Floods caused an estimated \$2.4 billion in property damage last year, and that number continues to rise. Ask your local insurance agent about flood insurance or call the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) at 1-800-720-1090 and speak to a representative.

You can also go to www.floodsmart.com to find valuable information on flood insurance.

Things you can do before a flood should include determining where the floodplain is in your area, planning and practicing an evacuation route, having an emergency supply kit (see floodsmart), and having check valves installed in the sewer traps of your home or business to prevent floodwaters from backing up sewer drains or at least use corks or stoppers to plug shower tubs and basins.

During the flood always be prepared to evacuate; however, remember never to drive into floodwaters...Turn Around Don't Drown. Have flashlights, battery operated radio or television, and bottled water close at hand. Fill the bathtubs, sinks, and any jugs with clean water in case the community's water supply becomes inoperable or contaminated. If it appears that water will eventually enter the house, turn off all utilities at the main valve switch and close the main gas valve.

After the flood it is important to remember that anything touched by floodwaters is contaminated and should be sterilized before using again. Upon entering a house that was flooded, wear sturdy shoes so nothing will puncture through. Use battery operated flashlights. Do not use anything with an open flame as gas leaks can occur as a house may shift from its foundation during a flood. Examine walls, floors, doors, and windows to make sure the structure is not in danger of collapsing. Examine utilities and contact a plumber or electrician if need be. Take plenty of photographs of the house and its contents for insurance purposes. Remember to contact the local Floodplain Administrator and allow him/her the opportunity to make the Substantial Damage determination before any work is completed on the structure. If the cost to repair the structure is 50% or more of the pre-flood value of that structure, it is determined to be substantially damaged and will need to meet the requirements set by the local flood damage prevention ordinance.

ASK YOUR LOCAL INSURANCE AGENT ABOUT FLOOD INSURANCE OR CALL THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) AT 1-800-720-1090 AND SPEAK TO A REPRESENTATIVE.

Oklahoma Floodplain
Managers Association, Inc.
PO Box 8101
Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

ADDRESS CORRECTION
SERVICE

Funding
Acknowledgement

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

VISIT US AT
WWW.OKFLOOD.ORG

OFMA would like to express special thanks to the B.F.E. Editor (Janet K. Meshek) for her efforts in the production of this newsletter.



Ex Officio:

Mr. Duane Smith
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
3800 North Classen Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Phone: (405) 530-8800
Fax: (405) 530-8900
dasmith@owrb.ok.gov

Chair:

Ms. Ellen Stevens, Ph.D, PE, CFM
1134 NW 33rd
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Phone: (405) 747-6598
Fax: (405) 488-0713
ellenphdpe@aol.com

Vice Chair:

Tom Leatherbee, CFM
City of Del City
City Planner
P.O Box 15177
Del City, OK 73115
Phone: (405) 671-2803
planner@cityofdelcity.com

Secretary:

Ms. Amy Brandley, CFM
Canadian County FPA
200 N. Choctaw Ave.
El Reno, OK 73036
Phone: (405) 262-1070
brandleya@canadiancounty.org

Treasurer:

Ms. Carolyn Schultz, CFM
Corps of Engineers
1645 S. 101st E. Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74128
Phone: (918) 669-4919
Fax: (918) 669-7546
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
llewis@odot.org

Region 2 Representative:

Mr. Bill Robison, CFM
City of Tulsa
2317 S. Jackson, Rm S-310
Tulsa, OK 74107
Phone: (918) 596-9475
brobison@cityoftulsa.org

Region 3 Representative:

Mr. Keith Miller, CFM
City of Sallisaw FPA
PO Box 525
Sallisaw, OK 74955
Phone: (918) 775-6241
kmiller@sallisawok.com

Region 4 Representative:

Mr. Dale Lasley, CFM
Caddo County FPA
PO Box 142
Fort Cobb, OK 73038
Phone: (405) 643-9213
gdasley@sbcglobal.net

Region 5 Representative:

Commissioner Clint Strawn, CFM
Woods County Courthouse
PO Box 386
Alva, OK 73717
Phone: (580) 327-2126
clintstrawn@gmail.com

Past Chair:

Mr. Clark Williams, MRCP, CFM
City of Piedmont
P.O. Box 240
Piedmont, OK 73078
Phone: (405) 373-2621
Fax: (405) 373-3243
clarkw@piedmont-ok.gov

Honorary Board Member:

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

Honorary Board Member:

Mr. Ken Morris
WK Morris Consulting, LLC
5400 E. Tecumseh Rd.
Norman, OK 73026
Phone: (405) 530-8861
Fax: (405) 530-8900
wkmorris@owrb.ok.gov

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
rdflanagan@rdflanagan.com

State NFIP Coordinator:

Mr. Gavin Brady
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
3800 North Classen Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Phone: (405) 530-8800
Fax: (405) 530-8900
gbrady@owrb.ok.gov

BFE Editor:

Ms. Janet K. Meshek, PE, CFM
Meshek & Associates, PLC
1437 South Boulder Avenue,
Suite 1080
Tulsa, OK 74063
Phone: (918) 392-5620
Fax: (918) 392-5621
jmeshek@meshekengr.com

DRT Coordinator:

Mr. Bill Smith, PE, CFM
Hydropower International Services
28508 W. 41st Street South
Mannford, OK 74044
Phone/Fax: (918) 865-6977
Cell: (918) 625-2449
wbsmith@hisinc.us