



The B.F.E. *

*Base Flood Elevation



OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 20 - Fall 2011

November 2011

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THE 2011 OFMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE—BY JANET MESHEK PE, CFM, PAST CHAIR

From September 19th through the 21st, 2011, over 250 floodplain management professionals came together at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in Norman, for three days of training. The conference, entitled, "Partnering for Progress: Promoting Excellence In Floodplain Management," highlighted a myriad of case studies on the use of collaboration and partnering among federal, state, local and tribal government agencies.

The feedback received from the attendees has been excellent. Some of the many positive evaluations included accolades for the variety of training provided by the many speakers.

Over 40 professionals with backgrounds in local, state and federal government as well as mapping, hydrologic and hydraulic engineering, and community planning and consulting, presented during the conference. Topics included **floodplain administration and management; risk mapping, assessment and planning;**

and hazard mitigation and planning.

The conference focused on collaboration examples that have yielded excellence despite challenging economic times.

Keynote Speakers

included Ms. Julie Cunningham, OWRB; Mr. Albert Ashwood, OEM; Mr. Chad Berginnis, ASFPM; and Mr. Charles Hardt, City of Tulsa (retired).

Additionally, the conference offered attendees the opportunity to participate in one of two **field trips:**

The **National Weather Center Tour or Low Impact Development and Best Management Practice Projects Tour.**

Attendees were also given the opportunity to participate in the **DRT program training and CFM exam.**

As in years past, a pre-conference **Golf Tournament** was held on Sunday, September 18. Congratulations to our winners: 1st-Carolyn & Mike Schultz, 2nd-Marc Utley &

Brandon Claborn and 3rd-Max Booth & Joel Scalf.

The conference also hosted our Annual Business Meeting. In accordance with the OFMA bylaws, the **election of 2012 OFMA officers occurred during this event.**

Your **new OFMA Board** includes:

Chair: Ana Stagg, PE, CFM, Meshek & Associates, PLC

Vice-Chair: Bill Robison, PE, CFM, City of Tulsa

Secretary: Amy Brandley, CFM, Canadian County

Treasurer: Carolyn Schultz, CFM, USACE

Past Chair: Tom Leatherbee, AINS, CFM, City of Del City

Regional Representatives:

Region 1: **Leslie Lewis, PE, CFM, ODOT**

Region 2: **W.B. Smith, CFM, HISINC, LLC**

Region 3: **Jeff Smith, CFM, Muskogee County**

Region 4: **Chloe Lewis, CFM, Comanche County**

Region 5: **Mike Galloway, CFM, Custer County**

(Continued on page 3)

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR—BY ANA STAGG, PE, CFM

On behalf of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association, thank you for your participation in the 21st Annual Conference. We are grateful for your commitment and efforts to share your knowledge, time and resources with us. I definitely will use the knowledge I personally gained from your participation to promote and deliver excellence in floodplain management. I hope that you too found the time spent at the conference worthwhile and productive.

The conference focused on collaboration examples that have yielded excellence in floodplain management in Oklahoma. Undeniably, and evident by your presentations, our members and OFMA achieved tremendous success in 2011 through collaboration. Like Tom Leatherbee, our past Chair, I too believe that collaboration is pivotal to furthering our mission. It is for this reason that, during my service as Chair, I will continue the work of others and endeavor to promote collaborative opportunities.

Your new board has already begun work. We met with several guests on October 12-14, 2011, for the organization's annual strategic planning retreat. As part of this session, the group developed and prioritized OFMA's initiatives for 2011-2012. A new initiative discussed during the retreat was the launch of a Tribal Committee to support our many tribal members. Other topics included new initiatives to address stormwater quality issues, master drainage planning funding deficiencies and FEMA's new mapping program's needs. A document detailing the outcome of the workshop is undergoing final review and will be posted on our website soon.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new OFMA officers, regional representatives and committee chairs. OFMA is grateful for your dedication and leadership. For those of you who were not able to attend our conference and wish to get involved, we welcome your contribution. Please visit our website to learn more about our many volunteering opportunities or contact me at astagg@meshekengr.com to discuss. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as OFMA Chair. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ana C. Stagg, PE, CFM



MEET YOUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS!



From left to right: Ken Morris, Joe Remondini, PE, CFM, USACE, Bill Smith, PE, CFM, HISINC, Tom Leatherbee, AINS, CFM, City of Del City (2010-2011 Chair), Ana Stagg, PE, CFM, Meshek & Associates, PLC (2011-2012 Chair), Carolyn Schultz, CFM, USACE (Treasurer), Bill Robison, PE, CFM (Vice-Chair), Mike Galloway, CFM, Custer County, Leslie Lewis, PE, CFM, Gavin Brady, NFIP Coordinator, Amy Brandley, CFM, Canadian County (Secretary). Not pictured: Jeff Smith, Chloe Lewis, Ron Flanagan, and Janet Meshek

Honorary Board Members:**Ken Morris**, CFM, Retired OWRB**Joe Remondini**, PE, CFM, USACE**Ron Flanagan**, CFM, R.D. Flanagan and Associates**Hank Elling**, CFM, Retired OWRB**NFIP State Coordinator:****Gavin Brady**, CFM, OWRB**BFE Editor:****Janet K. Meshek**, PE, CFM, Meshek & Associates, PLC**Ex Officio:****J.D. Strong**, OWRB**Committee Chairs:**

Budget:

Carolyn Schultz, CFM, USACE

Disaster Response Team (DRT):

Bill Smith, PE, CFM, HISINC, LLC

Education:

Dee Robison, Retired

Insurance:

Monica Kynaston, CFM, City of Del City

Legislative:

Tom Leatherbee, CFM, City of Del City

Mapping:

Matt Rollins, OWRB

Membership:

Clark Williams, CFM, Consultant

Mitigation:

Johnny Barron, CFM, OWRB

Professional Development and Certification:

Joe Remondini, PE, CFM, USACE

Publicity:

Ellen Stevens, PhD, PE, CFM

CRS Working Group:

Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM, City of Broken Arrow

2011 OFMA Fall Conference Pictures



STATE NFIP COORDINATOR REPORT, BY GAVIN BRADY, CFM

You have to appreciate weather if you've been fortunate enough to live in Oklahoma. Just this week—not year, not decade, but week—our great state has experienced drought, floods, tornados and even earthquakes. Where on earth could you experience all that in such a short timeframe?

The OWRB's floodplain management section primarily focuses on flooding and the issues that surround it. Many of you heard Chad Berginnis, CFM and Associate Director of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), speak on NFIP reform at the OFMA Annual Conference. The NFIP was established in 1968 to protect property and save lives. While many programs have been added since then (some needed while others not) the Program is losing money and continues to place people in harm's way. The NFIP was designed to deter development in the SFHA, yet it has almost become a tool on how to develop in such areas. The NFIP currently has debt of nearly \$18 billion, and with disasters coming at an alarming rate, it doesn't appear that number will shrink anytime soon. What can be done?

NFIP reform is a hot topic in Washington this year, and many proposals are being discussed. ASFPM plays an important role with regards to NFIP reform. They are the national voice for floodplain management, and NFIP reform is a continual topic of discussion for them, not just this year, but every year. ASFPM monitors daily activity in both the House (H) and Senate (S) while lobbying for much needed

improvements in the NFIP.

A few items on the NFIP reform radar that you might find interesting include:

- **Reauthorization for a five year term (through 2016) instead of the shorter terms we've seen the past several years.** This extension would eliminate the temporary shutdowns we've experienced.
- **Allowing Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to assist in funding certain floodplain management related activities (H).**
- **Allowing increases of annual flood insurance rates from 10% up to 20%.**
- **Lifting mandatory purchase requirements (H) if the property owner can provide an elevation certificate showing the lowest floor is at least 3 feet above the BFE.**
- **Requiring the property owner to purchase flood insurance if the structure is located behind a dam or levee through mandatory purchase requirements (S).**
- **Authorizing \$400 million annually for mapping (S) (the House bill doesn't address this issue).** It is so difficult to receive supplemental appropriations in this current economic condition we face, and authorizing whatever amount is determined makes the most sense.



Gavin Brady, CFM, State NFIP Coordinator

NFIP reform will not affect everybody, but to those with a federally backed mortgage, those that live or have been recently placed in the floodplain, and those that live in a residual risk area, changes will probably happen. Please stay involved and educate yourself in preparation for the proposed legislation. The ASFPM website www.floods.org is one you should become familiar with as you expand your knowledge in the field we all take very seriously.

(See related story page 5).

Please take time to meet our most recent additions to the floodplain management section. Matt Rollins was hired in July as a full time employee to fill the void with Ken Morris' retirement. We also have GIS specialist Jon Phillips, who will be working part time with our team. They have been a wonderful addition, and we look forward to expanding the services we can provide. Both can be reached at 405.530.8800.

FEDERAL FLOOD PLAN GETS BREATHING ROOM; EXPIRATION DATE NOW NOV. 18

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Source: A.M. Best Company, Inc.

A bipartisan budget deal averted a federal government shutdown and will keep the National Flood Insurance Program alive -- at least for seven weeks.

The Senate voted 79-12 in favor of a continuing resolution to keep the government going through Nov. 18. Included in the legislative language is one sentence extending the NFIP -- currently set to expire Sept. 30 -- for the same period. Lawmakers in both parties expect the House to also back the deal.

Democrats and Republicans had clashed over disaster relief funding to assist victims of Hurricane Irene and other disasters (Best's News Service, Sept. 23, 2011). The Senate rejected an earlier measure that appropriated additional funds for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but offset much of it by cutting loan subsidies for fuel-efficient vehicles. The stalemate ended when FEMA announced it indeed had funds to cover relief work through the end of the 2011 fiscal year, Sept. 30.

The short-term NFIP extension gives lawmakers breathing room to attempt a long-term reform and reauthorization of the 43-year-old NFIP. The Senate Banking Committee unanimously sent a bill to the floor Sept. 8 (Best's News Service, Sept. 8, 2011). The House passed its version by a 406-22 vote in July (Best's News Service, July 13, 2011).

"When Congress returns in October, we hope there

is a window of opportunity on the Senate's floor schedule to move a bill forward, but it's too soon to tell if that will happen," American Insurance Association spokesman Blain Rethmeier said.

Both bills would extend the NFIP for five years and include market-based changes including a phase-in of actuarially supported rates and limits on subsidies. The Senate bill would allow FEMA, which oversees the NFIP, to increase premiums by up to 15% per year, up from the current level of 10% but less than the House version's 20%. The Senate legislation lacks a provision added on the House floor aimed at depopulating the NFIP. The House bill would force the program to limit the number of policies it directly administers to no more than 10% of the aggregate number of flood policies.

As Congress argued over disaster funding, they missed a significant point about the flood plan, said Jimi Grande, senior vice president of federal and political affairs for the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies.

"The House and Senate are very close to passing a bipartisan flood insurance reform bill that will reduce the need for future disaster aid," he said in an email. "The NFIP needs to more closely resemble a private insurance model, thus reducing the underfunded risk exposure to the taxpayers. The reforms embodied in HR 1309 and the Senate bill take major steps towards achieving this end."

(By Sean P. Carr, Washington Bureau Manager: sean.carr@ambest.com)

Note— for the ASFPM Comments on the NFIP Reform Bills—HR 1309 and the Committee Passed Senate Bill, go to the ASFPM website, www.floods.org, then follow the links:

[Home](#) > [National Policy and Programs](#) > [ASFPM Policy Positions](#) > [NFIP Reform](#) to the ["ASFPM's side-by-side Comparison of NFIP Reform Legislation \(10/11\)"](#).

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

We are preparing for the spring flood season - dry as it may be!! We are preparing e-mail letters to send to each Floodplain Administrator that participates in the NFIP. This is a reminder that if the community (city, town, county, or tribal nation) chooses, it may “pre-register” with the OFMA DRT for assistance. A sample letter will be sent that your legal counsel may review.

The DRT responded to five events last year and assisted with substantial damage assessments.

We were invited to speak at the Kentucky Association of Floodplain Administrators and the Arkansas Floodplain Management Association about the DRT. Kentucky and Indiana have both requested and received CDs to create their own DRT.

We are encouraging other state floodplain management associations to do the same. FEMA requested our presentation at the recent CAP meeting in Denton, Texas. We are encouraged by continued FEMA support and publicity about the *only DRT program in the nation*.

Remember to clean out your conveyance systems over the winter to prepare for spring rains!

We are always there to assist your community.

*Bill Smith, PE, CFM
HISINC, LLC*

*28508 W. 41st St. S
Mannford, OK 74044
(918) 865-6977*

Email: wbsmith@hisinc.us

UPCOMING EVENTS



Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma - ACCO

Fall 2011 Conference—November 16-17,
Embassy Suites Hotel, Norman,
Oklahoma

Spring 2012 Conference—April 11-12,
location TBA

Fall 2012 Conference—November 14-15,
location TBA

*The 5th National FloodProofing
Conference and Exposition*
Levees and Beyond: Making Wise
Choices

NOVEMBER 28 -
DECEMBER 1, 2011
SACRAMENTO, CA



ASFPM 2012 Annual Conference

The Association of State Floodplain Managers will convene it's 36th annual gathering - the week of May 20 - 25, 2012, in San Antonio, Texas. The theme for next year's conference is “Mission Mitigation.”



2011 OFMA AWARD RECIPIENTS

SILVER SCOOP AWARDS

The Silver Scoop Awards are presented to key individuals that contribute significantly to the Association. Award recipients help make the Association click. The Silver Scoop symbolizes the importance of communal "channel maintenance" programs, as opposed to a one time clean up. Award recipients scoop a lot and scoop often. Scoop contents are always rich and organic. One or more Silver Scoop Awards are given annually to Association members.



This years' recipients:



Mike Chapman



Clark Williams



John Harrington

Mike Chapman—who continues to uphold Ponca City's excellent reputation as their floodplain administrator.

Clark Williams - who is always there to support the OFMA board in whatever they need, taking time out of his enormously busy schedule for OFMA.

Mike Pearson (not pictured) - for his outstanding work and support on the OFMA website.

John Harrington - for becoming trained on the flood model and then using it to educate our citizens.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

This scholarship is awarded to a graduating Oklahoma high school senior who is planning to pursue a career in a floodplain management related field and is intended for educational financial support.



This year we have two recipients. First, **Mary Gillespie**, daughter of Leslie Lewis, who grew up in the world of floodplain management thanks to her mom. She is attending the University of Oklahoma in the fall of 2011 and will study physical therapy and sports medicine. Although her major is not flood-related,



Mary Gillespie

Jacob Bulman

Mary has taken a personal interest in the "Turn Around, Don't Drown" campaign. She plans to promote this campaign and help awareness though activities and events at OU.

Secondly, **Jacob Bulman**, son of Barry and Dawn Bulman, is currently ranked #2 in his class, and was the 2009-2010 HOBY Scholar for Sapulpa High School (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership). In 2011, he was selected as one of 32 in the nation to take part in a summer HOBY leadership program at The University of Kansas. A three-year varsity letterman in football and wrestling as well as a four-year letterman in varsity soccer, Jacob is also a four-year member of the National Honor Society, a member of the youth group at New Heart Church, and a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Jacob is currently the only four-year student in the Sapulpa High School engineering program and has plans to pursue a career in the engineering field.

BEN FRIZZELL AWARD

In 2000, OFMA Board of Directors created this award to honor Ben Frizzell, who passed away May 15, 2000. In 1995, Ben became the Public Information Officer for the Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency management and did a marvelous job. Ben was recognized by FEMA in 1994 with their prestigious "Meritorious Service Award." The award cited his service during numerous disasters, including the 1992 Hurricane Andrew and the 1993 Midwest Floods. One of Ben's many sayings was, "Life is too short, it's like a commercial, HIT 'EM hard, make your point, then give them something to laugh about and remember."



This year's award goes to **Urban Tulsa Weekly**, nominated by Michelle Barnett. They have published numerous articles related to floodplain management issues. In Michelle's own words, "Urban Tulsa has consistently done a tremendous job of highlighting the need for disaster preparedness, hazard

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mitigation and stormwater management in Tulsa and the surrounding areas. They have provided in-depth coverage and insight that few, if any, other media outlets in the region can match. Where other outlets may respond with a story resulting from a media release, Urban Tulsa regularly seeks out the story from the people and follows through to policy and results.”

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Special Recognition Awards are presented by the Board of Directors annually. These awards are given to individuals in the floodplain management business that have demonstrated excellence in an endeavor that is worthy of recognition. One or more of these may be given in any given year.



The first recipient is Andy Artus, a partner at Collins, Zorn and Wagoner.

Mr. Artus was in charge of defending Canadian County in a lawsuit in which the county was being sued for preventing unsafe development in a known flood-prone area of Banner Road in the unincorporated county. He succeeded in presenting the case for floodplain management in Canadian County so well, that the plaintiffs eventually dropped their case.



Andy Artus

A **SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD** also went to the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma this year as well. In the midst of the 2011 legislative session, legislation was being advanced by industry special interests that would have removed regulatory authority for oil and gas development within the floodplain from counties and transfer it to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. Without ACCO’s support, removal of local oversight over floodplain permitting for oil and gas development might have become reality.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS also went to Amy Brandley, Clint Strawn and Ana Stagg, who were recognized for their combined efforts with the 2011 Legislative session. All three took an active role with several floodplain management bills including removing the five member floodplain board requirement, developing a unified approach when regulating oil and gas activity in the special flood hazard area and working with the Department of Public Safety and the “TURN AROUND DON’T DROWN” bill. Most people don’t realize the countless hours these individuals spent with legislators, various associations, floodplain managers and local officials throughout the State.



Amy Brandley Ana Stagg Clint Strawn



And last, but certainly not least, a **SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD** went to Congressman Dan Boren. When faced with constituents put in difficult situations by mapping errors in Ottawa and Pittsburg Counties, Congressman Boren and his staff contacted OFMA and OWRB for assistance. The Congressman’s office worked with OFMA to arrange a Town Hall meeting in Afton to discuss mapping and flood insurance, allowing important information about letters of map change and FEMA’s Preferred Risk Policy extension to be distributed to local officials. Involvement of all stakeholders, including Congressional representatives, is critical to promoting risk reduction.



Dan Boren

OUTSTANDING RECOGNITION AWARD Outstanding Recognition Awards are presented by the Board of Directors annually. These awards are given to floodplain management professionals who have excelled in improving our profession statewide and nationally.

This year the Board selected Tom Leatherbee for his service to OFMA during 2011. As Chairman, Tom Leatherbee led the organization through particularly challenging times. The 2011 Legislative session included several bills related to floodplain management. In the meantime, FEMA’s Map Modernization program was winding down, leaving much to be concerned about, and the new Risk MAP program was in its infancy, and will continue to bring change to Oklahoma communities.



Tom Leatherbee



CHAIRMAN’S AWARD The Chairman’s Award was created in 2007 by the Chair of the Association, to be given to dedicated OFMA members who continue to make valuable and significant contributions to the Association, year after year, for the improvement of floodplain management in the State of Oklahoma.

This year, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board has worked to begin significantly utilizing the Cooperating Technical Partner Program, allowing



federal funds to be leveraged to provide better flood risk maps for Oklahoma communities. There is no doubt that as time passes we will look back and recognize this commitment to the CTP program as a significant milestone in floodplain management within Oklahoma.



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R.D. FLANAGAN PROJECT PLATINUM AWARD

This award was created in 2001 for Oklahoma communities or agencies that go above and beyond the minimum. Stream restoration, repetitive loss buyouts, green belt creation and floodplain partnerships are examples of project candidates. The OFMA Board will review all candidates and more than one Project Award may be given in any year.

The Silver Award went to the Canadian County Floodplain Board for their strong commitment to consistently regulate oil and gas in the county's floodplains and set an example for other communities in the state through their volunteer of county floodplain board members:

Canadian County Floodplain Board



Frank Austin, Cecil Bearden, Clarence McCloud, Steve Renbarger and Carl Richey.



Now, the Gold award. After several years of minimal activity, OFMA and the DRT were put to the test with several flooding events and also a major tornado. Bill Smith and his team of volunteers made assessments in Delaware, Cherokee, and Craig Counties after major floods this spring. After an active tornado season, the DRT also made substantial damage assessments after storms in Edmond and Piedmont. Bill has been asked to speak about DRT at several state association conferences, as well as the National ASFPM Conference the past three years. We are proud to have this nationally recognized program here in Oklahoma and we are proud of OFMA and Bill for having the vision and making it happen.



W.K. MORRIS LIFETIME MEMBER AWARD

This Honorary Membership is given to Association member(s) that have made valuable and significant contributions over a significant number of years to the Association for the improvement of floodplain management in the State of Oklahoma. One or more of these awards are given annually. The awards committee and Board of Directors select award recipient(s).

This year's recipient of the W.K. MORRIS LIFETIME MEMBER AWARD, Bill Smith, is recognized for his tireless volunteerism with the Disaster Response Team.

Through his efforts, Bill makes a real difference and does it mostly without compensation. He works long hours to satisfy all the demands that are placed on him. He gives so much to this organization, and we wouldn't be who are without him.



PUBLIC OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is generally given to an official that has implemented public policy initiatives which demonstrate excellence in addressing present and future floodplain management needs for his/her community. The award recipient could be an elected or non-elected official. The award is given annually. Nominations are received each year from the general membership and the awards committee selects the individual based on his achievements.



This year the award went to Mayor Jimmy Tramel from Pryor. Mayor Tramel has long been an advocate for floodplain management. Working with the Department of Public Safety and OFMA's Education and Outreach Committee, Mayor Tramel led the charge for a barricade law that gives police the ability to ticket



motorists who ignore the warnings to "TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN."

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FLOODPLAIN MANAGER OF THE YEAR



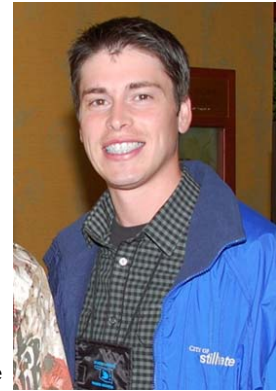
Each year OFMA selects an individual that has shown significant excellence in the field of floodplain management. The individual has demonstrated dedication through the

administration of his/her community's floodplain management program in pursuing the goals of flood loss reduction and in the prevention of loss of life. This award is given to an individual annually. Nominations are received each year from the general membership, and the awards committee selects the individual based on his achievements. The individual must be a member of the Association.

This year, the award goes to Cody Whittenburg. Cody is the Floodplain Administrator and Manager of the City of Stillwater's Stormwater Program. He received his Bachelor's degree in Spanish, a Master's degree in Environmental Science and is

currently working on his doctorate in Environmental Engineering at OSU. He is preparing to obtain his Professional Engineer's License in Environmental Engineering.

Having started with the City of Stillwater less than three years ago, Cody was given a stormwater program that needed improvement and has diligently worked to make the program one of the premier programs in the state. Recently, Cody has led the participation in the five year MS4 and CRS audits. He has responded to audit requests and to made changes in the city's programs to more closely align them with federal and state requirements. Cody has spent untold hours leading, guiding and supporting the Development Services Department efforts to provide a unified program of stormwater management for the city including providing training classes for staff, the public and private enterprises. According to his co-workers, Cody is a diligent, conscientious and tireless worker when it comes to promoting the well-being of the community of Stillwater.



**FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERS TEAMING UP TO IDENTIFY FLOOD RISKS:
GRAND LAKE O' CHEROKEES WATERSHED IDENTIFIED AS A "WATERSHED OF INTEREST"**



DENTON, Texas -- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Oklahoma are initiating a watershed approach to identifying flood risk in an area covering more than 800 square miles that touches four Oklahoma counties, two Missouri and two Kansas counties and one county in Arkansas.

As this effort begins in the Grand Lake O' Cherokees watershed, local, state and federal officials are working together to develop partnerships, share flood risk information and identify opportunities for mitigation action.

During the discovery phase of the watershed approach, information is gathered from a variety of stakeholders including community officials, floodplain administrators, engineers, watershed council representatives, planners and emergency managers. Because flood hazards change over time, officials say the watershed approach to identifying flood risks provides a great opportunity to take a comprehensive look at the components that contribute to a community's flood risk.

The Grand Lake O' Cherokees watershed stretches across two FEMA regions, four states and nine counties. It affects 29 populated areas and affects eight tribes.

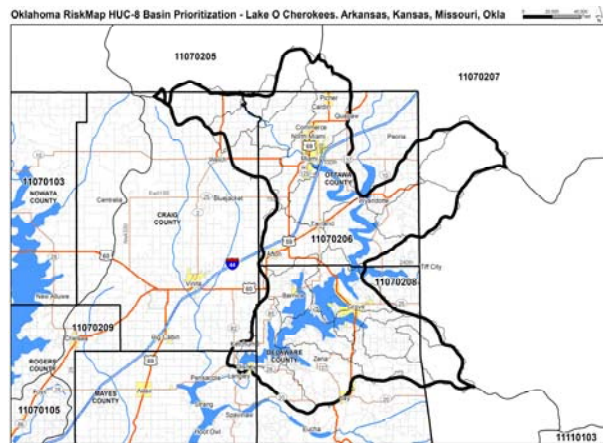
The watershed touches the communities of Benton County, Arkansas, Craig, Delaware, Mayes and Ottawa counties in Oklahoma, Cherokee and Labette counties in Kansas, and McDonald and

Newton counties in Missouri.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.

Release Date: October 24, 2011

Release Number: R6-11-135



Graphic courtesy of Meshek & Associates, PLC.

OFMA STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT—BY TOM LEATHERBEE, CFM, PAST CHAIR



The OFMA Board and several guests met earlier this month for the organization's annual Strategic Planning Retreat. The three day retreat is designed to allow for intensive discussion on the organization's past successes and future goals. By the conclusion of the retreat, a strategic work plan, policy agenda and budget for the 2011-2012 year had been created and the officers and committee chairs were ready to hit the ground running.

This year's retreat took a slightly different format, seeking to use the existing committee structure to guide the creation of the strategic plan. One by one, the committees were reviewed and detailed work plans were developed, all seeking to fit into the larger goals of the organization. The documents created for each committee are being finalized and will form the basis for committee reports at each board meeting, allowing for greater transparency and accountability.

In addition to the committee work plans, more in-depth discussions were held in a number of areas, including budget, education and outreach, and training. The budget group reviewed prior year budgets and made projections about the current year, also making recommendations about conference costs and fees. The education and outreach group discussed the need for a more uniform approach to our outreach activities, a thought that was continued during a presentation by professional broadcaster Barry Hughes. The training group discussed a plan to move toward a more systematic approach for OFMA's Advanced Training efforts, including development of standard course formats and course catalogs.

After completing the bulk of the work on the strategic plan, the entire group came together for discussions on master drainage plans and the role of OFMA with regard to stormwater quality. The discussion related to master drainage plans operationalized the definition of MDPs and provided yet another affirmation that OFMA's members need to have access to funding mechanisms for these important planning efforts. The stormwater quality discussion focused on the changing paradigm of water quantity vs. water quality in floodplain management and the differences between floodplain management, stormwater quality management and stormwater management. These whole group sessions led to two clear changes for the current OFMA board: continue to push for a funding mechanism for MDPs and find a way to invite stormwater quality professionals into our organization.

The retreat concluded with the October Board of Directors meeting. The Board will not meet in November, which will allow all board members and committee chairs to digest what was accomplished at the retreat and start to put these plans into action.

Highlights of each committee's work plan include:

PDCC

Continue implementation of national examination

Training cadre

Inventory and review all current courses
Develop materials needed to "package" all current courses
Develop course evaluation
Develop online instructor resource center

DRT

Continue training
Maintain readiness
Acquire new equipment (safety, radios)

Education

Continue development of traveling trunks program
Continue development of presentation modules
Design and order TADD bumper stickers
Recruit trainers for Ward's model

Produce TADD calendars

Legislative

Continue to protect local control
Identify funding sources for MDP's
Support CTP program
Work on technical revisions to floodplain management act

Membership

Strengthen recruitment of associate professionals
Show value to non-member floodplain managers

Awards

Broaden scholarship offerings

Nominating

Make nominating process more accessible

Mapping

Develop basic GIS training for DFIRMs
Develop advanced GIS training

Mitigation

Continue to build relationship with OEM/OEMA
Continue to promote mitigation education
Distribute mitigation information to members (grant NOIs, etc.)

Insurance

Coordinate map change assistance program
Reach out to insurance commission
Outreach regarding lenders/determination companies

CRS workgroup

Provide information about CRS change to members
Provide forum for CRS members and prospective members

Publicity

Distribute press releases for officers and award recipients
Develop a web-based announcement archive

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION
SERVICE

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