



The B.F.E.*

*Base Flood Elevation



OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 24 - December 2012

December 2012

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THE 22ND ANNUAL OFMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE "FLOOD RESILIENCE: THE NEW FACE OF FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT"

This year's Annual Conference, held at the Tulsa Embassy Suites from September 17-19, included an outstanding agenda of local, state and national topics.



The conference was kicked off with the singing of the national anthem by Ashley Gazal, and the Flag Ceremony and Native American Prayer Song by the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team.

The opening plenary keynote speakers were:

Cynthia Kitchens with the Tulsa District US Army Corps of Engineers and the OFMA Tribal Committee Chair, along with Tye Baker from the Choctaw Nation and Kara Berst from the Chickasaw Nation, gave a presentation

on the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nation Water Resource Study that that identified methods for Infrastructure Assessment and developing Sustainable River Flows.

Carl Watts, formerly with FEMA Region VI and currently the iService Regional Manager for

the NFIP, gave a very thorough overview of the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, complete with the level of commentary we have come to expect and enjoy from Mr. Watts.

Steve Graham, PE, CFM, the Assistance General Manager of the San Antonio River Authority, spoke on the Disaster Resilience initiative leading to the highly successful Bexar Regional Water Manager Program (BRWM), a consortium of governments to "Coordinate the flood control projects with others to create or enhance the recreational, transportation, recharge, economic development, and water quality opportunities through out the community".



Ed Rossman of the Tulsa District US Army Corps of Engineers, spoke on the Oklahoma Silver Jackets program, an interagency consortium of agencies with the goal of assisting with local disaster resilience, such as static and dynamic flood inundation mapping in Miami OK and assisting Tulsa County Levee District 12 with addressing complex challenges associated with the aging levee infrastructure.

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WORDS FROM THE CHAIR—BY BILL ROBISON, PE, CFM

First I'd like to say, I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and has a Very Merry Christmas. I'm looking forward to a very exciting year in 2013.

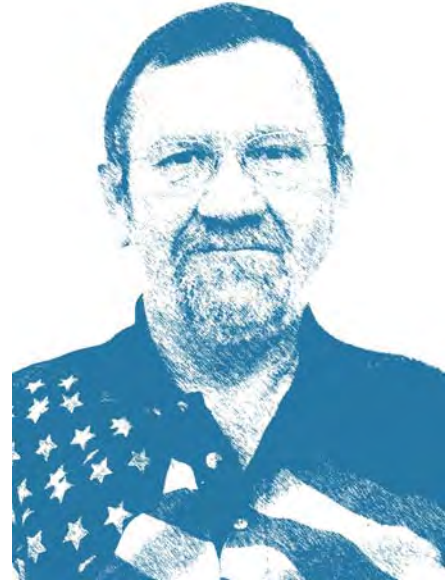
OFMA had a successful year in 2012. We expanded our membership into the water quality field and formed a new Tribal Committee. We have revamped the website making it more user friendly and added our training library. We expanded the Turn Around Don't Drown to include new TADD bumper stickers and thanks to the efforts of Tom Leatherbee were able to get TADD billboards placed that are seen by over one million drivers per month. The Legislative Committee was instrumental in defeating HB2836. If passed, this bill would have severely hampered floodplain management and participation in the CRS program.

My personal goals for OFMA in the upcoming year are to continue to recruit water quality and tribal members to join OFMA, extend training opportunities to the insurance industry, and diversify training to include other related fields and to expand our member benefits. I would also like to see more local floodplain administrators join OFMA and take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about floodplain management through our organization. Presently only about 30% of the FPA's across the state are

OFMA members. If you know one of these FPA's please encourage them to consider how OFMA membership can benefit them.

We have a busy year ahead of us in 2013. The Outreach Committee is working on a number of plug and play presentations for various audiences. These are intended for member's use when they need to educate various audiences on floodplain related topics. The first of these will be aimed at government officials - we hope to have it ready for the Legislative Reception in February. There are presently twenty different presentations on the list to be developed. As these are completed they will be placed on our website for our members and floodplain professionals from other state organizations to download and use. I'm not sure how many of these we will be able to complete this year. Funding is the limiting factor. To assist with this we have formed an Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee. We are looking for corporate sponsors and grant opportunities.

One item that came out of the Strategic Planning Retreat was the need to convey a more professional image. The board decided that we needed a new modern logo. An Ad Hoc committee was formed and retained the services of Barry Hughes, Impact Marketing and Advertising, of Owasso to



develop the new logo. Barry's firm is the firm that donated their time and talent and was able to get studio time donated for the production of the TADD video. We found the team at IMPACT very professional, extremely easy to work with, and we are very happy with our new logo. If any of your cities or municipalities need graphic design, television production or audio production, feel free to contact Barry and his team at: advertisingimpact@cox.net.

OTHER NEWS:

FEMA released a new Elevation Certificate form this week. The new form is available for download at: <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1383>.

Presently the old or new form can be used. After August 1, 2013 the old form will no longer be accepted.

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The four Breakout Sessions revolved around three tracks:

- Floodplain Management & Risk Assessment
- Risk Reduction & Hazard Mitigation
- Stormwater Quality & Low Impact Development

Speakers presented a variety of topics including Dam Safety and Breach Inundation Modeling, Sustainable Stormwater and Rain Garden Projects, Levees, Risk MAP, the OWRB's and the City of Tulsa's CTP program experience, the NRCS LiDAR mapping, local hazard mitigation projects in Stillwater, Kingfisher, Tahlequah, Ponca City, Moore and Del City, and several LID presentations, such as Pervious Pavement, Rain Gardens and other innovations.

French Wetmore also spoke on the 2013 Community Rating System Program Changes. Mr. Wetmore is a nationally-known CRS consultant and a member of the CRS Task Force.

The conference also offered attendees the opportunity to participate in one of two **field trips**:

- **Keystone Dam Tour**, led by Carolyn Schultz, CFM, USACE, and
- **Low Impact Development Sites Tour**, led by Kevin Gustavson, Blue Thumb Program, Oklahoma Conservation Commission

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 16. Congratulations to our winners: 1st-Carolyn Schultz & Kelly Gile, 2nd -Marc Utley & Tim Purkeypale, and 3rd- Mike Furnas and Kyle Cortiana, Long Drive Men - Kyle Cortiana, Long Drive Women - Carolyn Schultz, Closest to the Pin - Marc Utley. Congrats all!

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: Bill Robison, PE, CFM, City of Tulsa
Vice-Chair: Todd M. McLellan, PE, CFM, City of Norman
Secretary: Monica Cardin, CFM, City of Del City
Treasurer: Carolyn Schultz, CFM, USACE
Past Chair: Ana Stagg, PE, CFM, Meshek & Associates, PLC

Regional Representatives:

Region 1: Leslie Lewis, PE, CFM, ODOT
 Region 2: W.B. (Bill) Smith, CFM, HISINC, LLC
 Region 3: Brenda McCarty, CFM, SODA
 Region 4: Max Boothe, CFM, Washita County
 Region 5: Mike Galloway, CFM, Custer County

The Monday Night Social was a lot of fun. The **Minute to Win It** games included (among others):

Bucket Head, where you stand five feet away from a wall, bounce five ping pong balls off the floor, against the wall, and then back to you, catching it in a bucket that sits on top of your head;



Chocolate Unicorn, where you lean your head back and stack seven Ding Dongs on your forehead in one minute (Dennis, your family must be so proud!);

Hank Panky, pulling all of the tissues out of a standard sized box, one at a time, using only one hand,

Stacking Dice with Chopsticks, where you stack as many dice as you can on top of each other with chopsticks in a minute, and the

Oreo Game, where you move a cookie from your forehead to your mouth without using your hands.

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The lovely and obviously talented **Anna Wagoner**, from the City of Yukon, was the **grand prize winner of an Apple iPad 2**, much to the chagrin of runner-up, Mark Swift, Swift Water Resources. **Congratulations, Anna!**



During the closing plenary, **Col. Michael Teague, USACE**, gave us a look at the **USACE's role in balancing water interests** between navigation, hydropower, environmental issues, water supply, recreation and flood control. He also discussed the **partnerships that help make it all happen**, between the USACE and the Native American Nations,

the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Oklahoma Emergency Management, city and county communities, as well as consultants and individuals.

Tim Lovell, Executive Director of Tulsa Partners, Inc., presented an Introduction to the **Natural Hazard Mitigation Association**. He discussed the purpose of the organization, i.e., resource and information sharing,



peer-to-peer learning, fostering collaboration among a diverse group, making presentations and holding workshops on hazard mitigation and participation in national policy discussions. See more about Tulsa Partners, Inc. and the NHMA in this issue.



Tom Leatherbee, our OFMA legislative Chair, gave us an update on the **2011-2012 Legislative activity**, including the successful **Legislative Reception** in February. OFMA monitored 10 bills affecting Floodplain Management, including **HB 2836**, which would have effectively prohibited nearly all stormwater management regulations on private property outside the SFHA by deeming those regulatory actions a taking. **The OFMA-led coalition was able to defeat the bill** and keep it from being reported out of conference. He also presented the 2013 legislative priorities.

The conference was wrapped up by **2011-2012 chair Ana Stagg** passing the gavel to **Bill Robison, our 2012-2013 Chair**.



COMING SOON - REQUEST A CHANGE IN YOUR PROPERTY'S FLOOD ZONE DESIGNATION ONLINE!



FEMA is launching a new way to submit a request to change your property's flood zone designation - with the Online Letter of Map Change (LOMC)! If you believe your property has been inadvertently included in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), you may now request a change over the web, instead of by mail. The SFHA is the area that has a 1-percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year; this area is also referred to by some as the 1-percent-annual-chance floodplain, base floodplain, or the 100-year floodplain. Applicants can use this new website instead of the MT-1 or MT-EZ paper forms. All home or property owners, their designated representatives, or professional surveyors and engineers, can use this online tool to conveniently submit required documents, property information, and payment information all in one place.

The new Online LOMC offers many advantages over paper forms:

- Applicants may save information online and finish applying at their convenience
- Clear and intuitive interface makes applying user-friendly
- Eliminates time associated with the paper-based submission
- Frequent applicants can manage multiple LOMC requests online
- More efficient communications with LOMC processing staff
- Applicants can check their application status in real-time

Visit www.fema.gov/online-lomc to learn more!

OFMA honors ODOT, by Leslie Lewis, PE, CFM

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's work on the Perryman Ditch, a massive underground drainage structure along the I-44 Riverside Dr. to Yale Ave. corridor in Tulsa, gains special recognition from the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association represents approximately 385 Oklahoma communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and is represented by state coordinator Gavin Brady and ODOT Liaison Leslie Lewis.

The award honors implementation of public policy initiatives which demonstrate excellence in addressing floodplain management needs for communities.

Designed to improve drainage for the I-44 widening project, the \$42 million

Perryman Ditch structure completed in 2010. It is located on the north side of I-44 between the Arkansas River and Yorktown Avenue, a total distance of 1.25 miles in length.

Built 30 feet below ground, this triple-cell box is wide enough for three semi-trucks to drive side-by-side at its widest point. It contains nearly 35,000 cubic yards of concrete and nearly six million pounds of steel. It was the first of four construction phases for the nearly \$400 million widening project.

Previous to the Perryman Ditch project, flooding in this area was frequent and costly. By rerouting the flow and containing it within the culvert along the interstate right-of-way, this storm water relief line significantly improved the Tulsa flood hazard area for 1,264 homes and businesses.



Left to right: Gary Ridley, ODOT Director; Gary Evans, ODOT Chief Engineer; Peter Regan, District 8 Transportation Commissioner; Gavin Brady, State NFIP Director, Paul Zachary, City Engineer, City of Tulsa; Leslie Lewis, Hydraulic Engineer, Bridge Division; and Randle White, Division 8 Engineer.

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association recognizes the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Gary Ridley as the 2012 Public Official of the Year. Special recognition also goes to Chief Engineer Gary Evans and Division 8 Engineer Randle White for the construction of the project.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Public Official of the Year award is 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.

OFMA's 2012 Floodplain Manager of the Year - Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM, Stormwater Manager, City of Broken Arrow



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 year's recipient is Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM, Stormwater Manager for the City of Broken Arrow. Jeff Bigby has been an active member of OFMA for over 15 years. He has been a regional representative, chair of mapping committee, vice-chair of the PDCC, and currently heads the CRS community working group.

Jeff's hard work has brought Broken Arrow from a CRS rating of 9 to its current rating of 5, allowing Broken Arrow

flood insurance policy holders to see a 25% discount and saving the community thousands of dollars in insurance premium costs. Jeff has been key in educating Oklahoma Floodplain Administrators on the benefits of and how to enter, the CRS program.

In May 2006, Broken Arrow received over 6" of rain in a 3 hour period. Jeff shared this event with the OFMA members that fall in his presentation that documented the actions that were taken the day of the flood, the days after, the weeks following, and long term actions. This provided other Floodplain Administrators Broken Arrow's lessons learned.

As Broken Arrow's Floodplain, Jeff has demonstrated excellence in the field of floodplain management, through the administration of his community's floodplain management programs well as in his involvement in OFMA, pursuing the goals of flood loss reduction and in the prevention of loss of life. Great job, Jeff!

OKLAHOMA SILVER JACKETS COALITION FOCUSES ON TEAMWORK - BY ANN PATTON, FOUNDED DIRECTOR (RET.) TULSA PARTNERS, INC., 2ND VICE PRESIDENT, NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION ASSOCIATION

Teamwork. It's the way to get things done.

That's the vision behind a new Oklahoma coalition named Silver Jackets. The Oklahoma Silver Jackets Team is creating a new national model for

collaboration to foster sound floodplain and hazard management.

"The new Oklahoma Silver Jackets Team

links together our state, local, and federal governments with grassroots citizens and nonprofits groups, into a partnership working on specific problems and projects," says Gavin Brady, the state's flood program coordinator at the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

The Oklahoma initiative includes not only governments but also diverse non-government partners. In addition to

the OWRB, members of the evolving Oklahoma SJ Team include the US Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, Oklahoma Department of Emergency

Management, Tulsa's city and county governments, Tulsa Drainage District #12, Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association, Tulsa Partners, and the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association.

Silver Jackets is a national program sponsored by the Corps of Engineers

to offer a common forum and leverage resources that can address state risk management priorities, said Gene Lilly, SJ manager in the Tulsa District Corps office. "Traditionally, different agencies wear different colored

systems, said Ed Rossman, planning chief for the Tulsa District Corps.

The Tulsa pilot is expanding a Corps geographic information tool named SimSuite to help local governments plan risk-reduction and resilience



The Tulsa Silver Jackets pilot project focuses on the Tulsa/West-Tulsa levees.

measures, including public education, emergency planning, and levee repairs.

"We're particularly focused on an area

behind the Tulsa/West-Tulsa levees that has a number of challenges," said Tim Lovell, executive director of Tulsa Partners, a nonprofit that is working with a number of stakeholders on education and outreach to residents on the area known locally as the Sand Springs Line. "We're developing a strategy to help the community understand the neighborhood's risk and what can be done to mitigate those hazards along the river."

Two Oklahoma SJ pilot projects are under way to address the state's priority (in the 2012 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan) to

Planners for the Tulsa pilot project for the Oklahoma Silver Jackets Team include (clockwise from left) Gene Lilly and Ed Rossman, Tulsa District Corps of Engineers; Ann Patton, Natural Hazard Mitigation Association; Chris Baker, Corps; and Tim Lovell, Tulsa Partners.



The levees are in critical need of repair, said SJ Team member Todd Kilpatrick, levee commissioner for Drainage District 12 that manages the Tulsa/West-Tulsa levees. "The people who live and work behind the levees

promote local risk management: an extended floodplain mapping project in Miami, OK; and an innovative project focused on the Tulsa/West-Tulsa levees along the Arkansas River.

The project is also relevant to the Jenks and Haikey Creek levee

need better protection, and we welcome the help of the Silver Jackets team."

Another team member is the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association, a national nonprofit that links together

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NHMA & TULSA PARTNERS, INC. - NONPROFIT PARTNERS ON OKLAHOMA SILVER JACKETS PROJECT - BY TIM LOVELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TULSA PARTNERS, INC.



Natural Hazard Mitigation Association

In 2008, people who were primarily from Louisiana and Oklahoma discussed the need for a new national organization focused on bringing together individuals and entities working in the diverse field of hazard mitigation. Now including representation from across the nation, the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA) is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves as a respected voice in hazard mitigation policy both in the United States and throughout the world.

In 2011, NHMA and FEMA discussed how to promote grassroots involvement in “incentivizing” mitigation. In early 2012, the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association launched a special program named Resilient Neighbors Network (RNN) to link together grassroots communities working to become safer, disaster-resilient, and sustainable. NHMA has been working with ten pilot communities around the USA to create a peer-to-peer sharing network, in order to enable grassroots communities to work together directly and to strengthen and expand local



hazard-mitigation programs.

“Nobody knows the challenges and opportunities that local communities face better than other local communities,” said Juliette Hayes, FEMA RNN Liaison. “The Resilient Neighbors Network is inherently collaborative in that it is locals supporting locals within a framework that is supported by experts in the fields of mitigation and resilience.”

The collaborative nature of Oklahoma Silver Jackets makes it an ideal best practice for NHMA to share through RNN.

Tulsa Partners, Inc.

Tulsa Partners is a member organization of NHMA, and serves as the local coordinator for Tulsa’s participation in the Resilient Neighbors Network. Several people involved with Tulsa Partners were integral to the creation of NHMA.

Tulsa Partners is a successful 501 (c)(3) community-based nonprofit organization that uses collaboration to create safe, sustainable communities. It has served as the hub of collaborative and integrative sustainability programs in Tulsa for 12 years, and was initially created to support Tulsa’s stormwater management, Project Impact and Citizen Corps programs. Tulsa Partners has grown to become an organization dedicated to the systematic development and strengthening of community resilience, using a “whole community” approach.

Dr. Brenda Phillips, a professor at Oklahoma State University Fire and Emergency Management program and

their Graduate Student Coordinator, said, “ Tulsa Partners, Inc. has *always* embraced the notion of Whole Community - long before we began using the term as a means to drive broader levels of preparedness for disasters and extreme events.”



Caption: Representatives of NHMA Resilient Neighbors Network at meeting in Broomfield CO in July 2012.



Caption: Map of RNN Communities (courtesy Tom Malmay)

With the support of an OSU graduate student provided by Dr. Phillips, Tulsa Partners will assess summary information from the Silver Jackets study on populations protected by the Tulsa - West Tulsa Levee and coordinate with Drainage District 12,

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2012 OFMA AWARD RECIPIENTS, BY JANET MESHEK, EDITOR

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 include:



- Richard Green with the City of Tulsa, for providing invaluable assistance with the OFMA outreach programs and in preparation for the 2012 OFMA Conference.

- Mike Kimbro with ODOT, for his participation mostly behind the scenes, wherever and whenever he can for OFMA, including being our conference photographer.



- Mike Galloway, Custer County Emergency Manager, for providing a valuable bridge to OEMA and going above and beyond to bring resources from the

emergency management community to OFMA.

- Clark Williams with the OWRB, Clark has provided the OWRB with much needed



assistance, assisting with the preparation of new ordinances for over 200 communities in Oklahoma. Clark is also the chair of the membership committee for OFMA.



- Lacie Jones with Meshek & Associates, PLC, for all her volunteer work for OFMA, and her gift for outreach in the State's

Discovery efforts .

- Monty Proctor, long-time FPA for Wagoner County and now with City of Wagoner. He will be assisting citizens with LOMAs using the City's survey equipment to assist those citizen's who cannot afford this service otherwise.



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 had two recipients. First Emily Kitchens, from Union HS, who will be a freshman at Oklahoma University next year, probably majoring in natural resource science. Our second recipient is Joshua E. Robinson, a Sapulpa HS graduate, currently a sophomore at Oklahoma State



University Mechanical Engineering.

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 years' recipient is Trent Lindmark, of Blue Sky Outdoor Advertising, for his work in helping OFMA to promote its message of "Turn Around Don't Drown".



Trent provided billboard space and assisted with design and production of outdoor advertising to educate tens of thousands of motorists a day about the dangers of driving around barricades.

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.



This year recipients include:

- Wagoner County E911 Department, for working with and providing services to

local FPA's through their expertise in GIS mapping.

- John Harrington with ACOG, for promoting FPM through the 3D model. John is a past Region 1 Representative and longtime friend of



OFMA. Wearing his water resources hat for ACOG he has trained many groups with the 3D Floodplain Model, including displaying it at Science Day.



- Todd McLellan, City Development Engineer for the City of Norman, for his “start from

scratch” learning and performing his job with excellence, as well and championing the Norman CRS program.

- Matt Rollins with the OWRB, for providing ordinance assistance to over 200 communities. He has also developed a web viewer to place the 41 county wide D-FIRMs on the OWRB website.



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’s award recipients are:



- Amy Brandley, Canadian County Librarian (formerly Floodplain Administrator), for her tireless work as OFMA secretary for several year, her active roles with several floodplain management bills, including removing the 5-member floodplain board requirement. She initiated floodplain management for oil companies drilling in the floodplain and followed it through to the national level. She will be missed by OFMA!

year, her active roles with several floodplain management bills, including removing the 5-member floodplain board requirement. She initiated floodplain management for oil companies drilling in the floodplain and followed it through to the national level. She will be missed by OFMA!

- Mike Chapman, Assistant City Engineer for the City of Ponca City, for consistently worked with local and state agencies and consultants to stay aware of problems associated with the regulatory floodplains in and around Ponca City.



When ODOT replaced the US Highway 60 bridge and the Big Snake Bridge in Kay County, Mike worked with a former Corps of Engineers engineer to revise both the hydrology and hydraulics on the floodplain below Kaw Dam. This allow FEMA to update FIRM panels from the dam through Ponca City on the Arkansas River. The resulting floodplain reflected current floodplain conditions and answered all lingering questions on the floodplain limits.

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

This year’s award recipient is City of Kingfisher and the Kingfisher Flood Mitigation Committee.

The City of Kingfisher is no stranger to flooding. In August 2007 flood waters inundated a large portion of the downtown area, with nearly six feet of



flooding over Highway 81. Over 100 properties were flooded, many in excess of four or five feet. Following this event, the Kingfisher Flood Mitigation Committee was born.

This group is accredited for obtaining \$4 million in state funding to tackle Kingfisher’s severe flooding problems. The Kingfisher City Council collaborated with the Kingfisher Flood Mitigation Committee and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to leverage state bond funds of \$1.9 million to obtain an additional \$5.8M in grant funds in Phase 1 of the Kingfisher buy-out project. Ultimately Phase 1 will purchase 48 frequently flooded buildings on 47 parcels in Kingfisher.

R.D. FLANAGAN PROJECT GOLD AWARD



This year’s award recipient is the City of Tulsa for the Fred Creek Project.

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

STATE NFIP COORDINATOR REPORT, BY GAVIN BRADY, CFM

Be Safe in 2013

I have taken time to look back at the articles the Oklahoma State Coordinator has written over the past decade or so. Not all mine, but none the less. It is sometimes a challenge to publish words that make a difference, words that present a challenge to the floodplain administrators in our great State. One theme I continue to see is "being prepared" even in times of drought.

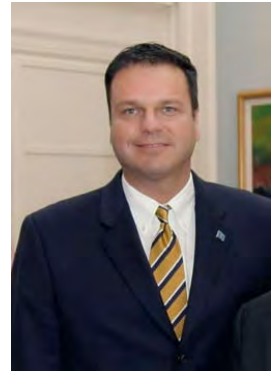
The OWRB recently held its 33rd Annual Governor's Water Conference focusing on drought, conservation and in stream flow. As Oklahoma's last wet year in 2007 seems to be forgotten, I hope this isn't the case. While I hope we will never again have a flood, I know this is a dream. I hope all floodplain managers have the same plan and realize the next flood is coming. With planning and coordination amongst those that have interest, we will be prepared.

My everyday responsibility is overseeing almost 400 communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). While I have the luxury of adding Matt Rollins, Cathy Poage and Kim Sullivan to the floodplain management staff the over the past several years, our responsibilities continue to increase. With the recent drought, we see new landowners wanting to purchase property/structures in the floodplain. Many say the property has never flooded as reported by neighbors and those that seemingly know the property. While we understand an individual might accept this as truth, we

hope they will seek better scientific knowledge the State has been provided. Matt Rollins has placed the most recent Flood Insurance Rate Maps on the State's www.owrb.ok.gov website. Over 90% of Oklahoma's population is located on the OWRB's flood map viewer and available to the public. While a majority of the population isn't located in the floodplain, most can find where they live and its proximity to a flood hazard. Please call us before purchasing any properties in or near the floodplain.

With the New Year approaching, OFMA and the OWRB remind all to please address the new changes with FEMA's NFIP reform. With FEMA addressing the burden of a multibillion dollar deficit, then we add Hurricane's Isaac and Sandy, it only seems evident that the new FEMA budget will come be under more scrutiny than ever before. Please log on to: http://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/orig/fema_pdfs/pdf/business/nfip/nfip_reform_phase_II_report.pdf for the most recent progress.

The OWRB and its staff ask that you plan on attending one of this year's 2013 accreditation workshop trainings. We have many opportunities for you to meet this year's OWRB accreditation requirement. Please contact Cathy Poage at clpoage@owrb.ok.gov to register.



Gavin Brady, CFM, State NFIP Coordinator

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



OFMA DRT: The OFMA Disaster Response Team (DRT) will be preparing for the Spring Flood season over the winter. Supplies will be checked and a request for additional personnel supplies for additional volunteers has been made to OWRB for CAP funding. We currently have 74 volunteers.

We will have another training program during the OFMA Spring Technical Workshop for DRT volunteers. Please sign up for this training when registering for the Spring Workshop or please notify Bill Smith, P.E. CFM, DRT Coordinator if you intend to participate in the training.

We continue to work on the data base to send the "contract letter" for communities to "pre-enroll" in the

event that your community needs the assistance of the DRT.

The DRT volunteered to assist FEMA in Louisiana during the Hurricane and also discussed assisting in the Hurricane Sandy Disaster in New England. In both incidents there was no method of reimbursement for travel, lodging, food, etc. Tom Leatherbee, Assistant DRT Coordinator is working on a plan to submit to Congress for possible modification of the FEMA regulations to permit a volunteer organization, such as the OFMA DRT to assist our neighbors in need. We will need your support if this legislative action becomes a reality.



2012 OFMA AWARD RECIPIENTS - BY JANET MESHEK

(Continued from page 9)

Association for the improvement of floodplain management in the State of Oklahoma.



This year's recipient is Leslie Lewis, Hydraulic Engineer with the ODOT Bridge Division. Leslie has been a member of OFMA since 2000 and currently serves as the Region I Representative. As Hydraulic Engineer within the Bridge Division of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, she has been instrumental in coordinating joint cooperation between floodplain management goals of OFMA with transportation goals of ODOT. Leslie has always worked very hard on the Annual Flood Safety Poster Contest as well as on other OFMA projects. Leslie has been a strong supporter of OFMA and characterizes the significant contributions over a number of years to the association that the award exemplifies.

CHARLES DON ELLISON AWARD

In 1998, OFMA Board of Directors created this award to recognize an association member who has demonstrated significant long-term leadership and support which clearly influenced and advanced the OFMA. This award is named after Charles Don Ellison, a Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VI employee and native Oklahoman, who dedicated his life to flood loss reduction for Oklahoma and the nation. On July 23, 1995, Don left us at the early age of 59. His career exemplifies the spirit of this award. Don had the foresight to envision this Association and its benefits.

This year's recipient is Marc Utley, Utley & Associates. Marc has been a member of OFMA since the 90's. As a professional engineer and one of the top H&H engineers in Oklahoma, he has prepared several master drainage studies for various communities within Oklahoma, allowing them to better assess flooding risks. His expertise in floodplain hydrology and hydraulics as well as FEMA floodplain mapping brings a lot to the organization. Marc is currently part of the OWRB Cooperating Technical Partner technical team responsible for updating and improving floodplain boundary mapping for participating communities. Marc has been a strong supporter of OFMA and characterizes the long-term contributions to the association that the award exemplifies.



OKLAHOMA SILVER JACKETS COALITION - BY ANN PATTON

(Continued from page 6)

supporters of hazard mitigation. NHMA is working with the Oklahoma Silver Jackets team to share the lessons learned in the Oklahoma SJ pilot, said NHMA Executive Director Alessandra Jerolleman. "We're pleased to help spread the word about this exciting endeavor, starting with a national webinar early next year," she said. "We want to encourage others to learn from and replicate the innovative work of the ground-breaking Oklahoma Silver Jackets team."

For more information, see www.nfrmp.us/state and www.NHMA.info, or contact Ann Patton, writer/consultant, Ann Patton Company LLC, 10705 S. Winston Ave., Tulsa, OK 74137. 918-527-0161. ann.NHMA@gmail.com and www.AnnPatton.org

NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION ASSOCIATION - BY TIM LOVELL

(Continued from page 7)

Tulsa County, City of Tulsa, Sand Springs, Jenks and others in the development of a generic Citizen Engagement Strategy (Next Steps) Outline applicable to populations protected by the three levee systems. Strategy development will include existing community planning activities, like the current update on the City of Tulsa's Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as participation by neighborhood residents.

For more information on these nonprofits visit the following websites:

<http://nhma.info/>

<http://tulsapartners.org/tpi/>

TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN™ SITES IN OKLAHOMA

TADD is a National Weather Service campaign to warn people of the hazards of walking or driving a vehicle through flood waters. Several counties in Eastern Oklahoma have Turn Around Don't Drown signs posted at locations where flash flooding often leads to water over the roads.

Mayes County has attached these warning signs to road barricades beginning in the summer of 2009 in order to reinforce the danger of a flooded roadway. In addition,



TADD sign and gate installed on S. Elliot St. in Pryor (Mayes Co.) (Photo by Nicole McGavock, NWS)



Dedication ceremony with Mayes County and City of Pryor Officials for the TADD sign installed on S. Elliot St. in Pryor (Photo courtesy of Bill Robison, OFMA)

gates and TADD signs have been installed on S. Elliot street on the south side of Pryor. Mayor Jim Tramel is pic-

above, third from the left. 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." Additional signs have been posted around the county.

Tulsa City/County installed signs in Fall 2009 at two frequently flooded locations: 1) 800 N. Lewis where the street goes under railroad tracks and flood waters have risen to within inches of the clearance sign under the bridge 2) Elwood Ave. between 81st and 91st Streets near the Jones Riverside Airport. This road has a series of dips that frequently become flooded.



TADD sign installed at 800 N. Lewis in Tulsa (Photo by TAEMA)



TADD sign installed at 81st and Elwood in Tulsa near Jones Riverside Airport (Photo by

Pittsburg County officials installed a set of TADD signs in March 2010 along State Highway 51 approximately 5 miles west of McAlester. According to Emergency Management Officials, "this location has flooded for many years and people have become complacent about driving into water over

the road. In recent years, there have been several water rescues and cars down out in the water."

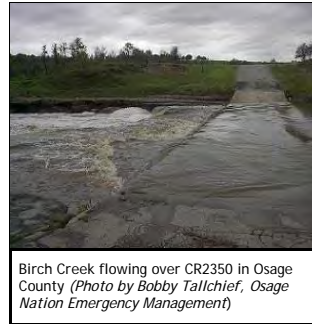
The Osage Nation has a Turn Around Don't Drown campaign as part of its Injury Prevention Program through the Emergency Management office. Like many counties across eastern Oklahoma and northwest Arkansas, Osage

County has approximately 100 low water crossings that can create dangerous conditions when water is flowing over the road. In March 2010, TADD signs were installed at two of



Dedication ceremony with Pittsburg County Officials for the TADD sign installed on State Highway 51, 5 miles west of McAlester (Photo by Lois Lupardus, McAlester/Pittsburg Co. Emergency Management)

these low water crossings: 1) CR2350 at Birch Creek between Barnsdall and Wynona



Birch Creek flowing over CR2350 in Osage County (Photo by Bobby Tallchief, Osage Nation Emergency Management)



TADD sign installed on CR2350 in Osage County (Photo by Nicole McGavock, NWS)

2) CR2466 at Bird Creek just north of Barnsdall (between State Highways 99 and 123). More information on the Tribe's involvement in "Turn Around Don't Drown" is available at http://www.osagetribe.com/emergencymanagement/news_story.aspx?news_id=1565.

Why is Turn Around Don't Drown® So Important?

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other severe weather related hazard. The Centers for Disease Control report that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. The next highest percentage of flood-related deaths is due to walking into or ear flood waters. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

Article excerpted from http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/?n=hydro_tadd.

FEMA REPS BRACING FOR CONSUMER BACKLASH WHEN NFIP ACTUARIAL RATES PHASED IN BY ARTHUR D. POSTAL

REPRINTED BY PERMISSION FROM PROPERTYCASUALTY360.COM

Federal Emergency Management Agency officials are girding for sticker-shock outrage from consumers as they prepare to implement across-the-board rate increases in the flood-insurance program.

The law imposing the increases in January is the Biggert-Waters Act, and was enacted by Congress in July.

It would phase in actuarial rates over four years; and institute a five-year phase-in of higher rates imposed through mapping changes. The changes go into effect starting Jan. 1.

"We are expecting acute consternation," said an unidentified aide to David Miller, FEMA associate administrator for federal insurance and mitigation.

Miller made his comments at the Government Relations Task Force meeting held in conjunction with the NAIC's fall national meeting Saturday at National Harbor, Md.

Miller was cagey in discussing when and if the administration will seek an increase in the borrowing authority for the program, the National Flood Insurance Program.

It is expected that officials will seek an increase from the current \$20.775 billion to \$30 billion. That increase in borrowing authority is expected to be tucked into legislation that resolves the "fiscal cliff" crisis that is now the subject of intense negotiation between the Obama administration and Congress.

It is expected that some sort of deal will be completed by mid-December.

Miller would only say that Congress, the White House and the Office of Management and Budget are being updated daily on the "burn rate" of the estimated \$2.95 billion FEMA had on hand to pay claims when Superstorm Sandy hit.

"I won't conjecture on what or if the administration will ask for an increase in the borrowing cap," he said.

In a statement made Sunday at the Property and Casualty Insurance Committee meeting held as part of the event,

David Snyder, a vice president of the Property Casualty Insurers Association of

America, said, "Because so many people are relying on NFIP, it is particularly critical that it be financially strong."

Snyder also said, "To the extent practicable, NFIP's rates should also accurately reflect risk so as to provide financial signals that could help reduce future losses."

No NAIC official would comment on the critical cap issue during the meeting.

Miller said that dealing with Sandy has taught the agency many lessons. One of the dilemmas it is facing is advising homeowners rebuilding after Sandy what level of elevation FEMA might require for built-up properties going forward, based on the storm.

Snyder also made comments from the perspective of industry on the lessons learned from Sandy.

"Sandy, Katrina and other catastrophes have exposed fatal flaws and critical vulnerabilities in this nation's risk-management system," he said.

Citing a Framework for Disaster Risk Management approved by the G-20 last month, Snyder said, "Consumers, regulators and insurers need predictability."

He noted, "Major progress on fundamental insurance issues requires the natural-catastrophe risk to become more insurable through strengthening the other links in the disaster risk-management chain. By analogy, auto insurance would not be as affordable and available as it is if we were killing and injuring people at the rate we were in 1960."

Among other issues discussed at the meeting, Miller acknowledged that, "Climate change is clearly a big issue."

However, he said, "The questions we are confronting as we try to deal with it is, how do we quantify it, and how will it affect pricing and mapping in specific risk areas?"

He said the agency is getting to work dealing with the studies and program changes mandated by Biggert-Waters, and is happy that some certainty has been introduced into the program with passage of the five-year extension.



UPCOMING EVENTS



June 9-14 in Hartford, Connecticut

The Association of State Floodplain Managers invites you to share your experiences with

local, state and federal officials, industry leaders, consultants and other interested parties at the world's largest and most comprehensive floodplain management conference.

OFMA 2013 Conferences

Watch for information on the 2013 OFMA Spring Technical Workshop and the

23rd Annual OFMA Fall Conference

in the Spring Issue of the BFE!



OWRB FP101 & Advanced Training Schedule for 2013

Date	Track	Class	Location
Jan. 7-11, 2013	1	Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP - <i>Five day class</i>	Norman - OCCE
1/31/2013	1	FPM 101	Norman - OCCE
	2	USACE Clean Water Act/404 Permitting, Green Construction in SFHA, Master Drainage Plans, Dam Safety	
3/5/2013	1	FPM 101	Bartlesville
	2	FEMA LOMA Process, Dam Safety Program, Flood Insurance, No Adverse Impact, USACE Clean Water Act/Regulatory Permitting	
3/7/2013	1	FPM 101	McAlester
	2	Risk Map (4 hrs), Establishing BFE's in Un-numbered "A" Zones, No Adverse Impact	
3/12/2013	1	FPM 101	Clinton
	2	Flood Proofing, USACE Clean Water Act/404 Permitting, International Building Code, Low Impact Development	
4/2/2013	1	FPM 101	Norman - OCCE
	2	Basics for New FPA: Hydrology 101, Hydraulics 101, Basic Floodplain Regulations, USACE Clean Water Act/Regulatory Permitting, FEMA Firmettes	
5/9/2013	1	FPM 101	Norman - OCCE
	2	Community Rating System, International Building Codes, Low Impact Development, Establishing BFE's in Un-numbered "A" zones	
6/6/2013	1	FPM 101	Norman - OCCE
	2	Basics for new FPA; Elevation Certificates, Hydrology 101, Hydraulics 101, Establishing BFE's in Un-numbered "A" Zones	
6/13/2013	1	Silver Jackets Partnerships, Dam Safety Programs, Risk Map, USACE Clean Water Act/Regulatory Permitting Clean Water Act	Langley, Ecosystems and Education Center

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VISIT US AT
WWW.OKFLOOD.ORG

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