

THE FLOOD CURRENT

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1999

OFMA Celebrates Legislation, Certification in 1999

Notes from the desk of Ken Morris, CFM, Oklahoma NFIP Coordinator

What an eventful year for floodplain management in Oklahoma! The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) extends special thanks to Charles Don Ellison, Harold L. Springer and Carol Williams for realizing early on the importance of such an organization.

Although Oklahoma did not experience any devastating flood disasters in 1999, floods at Blackwell and Miami inflicted significant damage in November, 1998. In Blackwell, 365 homes were damaged by floodwaters and Miami suffered many losses. OFMA worked hard to set in place a mechanism to buy out homes with histories of repetitive flood damage. House Bill 1841, authored by Sen. Kevin Easley, Sen. Sam Helton and Rep. Larry Rice, created a landmark flood mitigation program.

OFMA will be challenged in 2000 to obtain legislative approval for long-term funding to support this important initiative.

The Ninth Annual OFMA Training Conference at Lake Murray Lodge attracted 85 people, including Region VI Director Buddy Young, who made opening remarks, and Larry Larson,

executive director of ASFP, Inc. At the conclusion of the conference, OWRB hosted an 8-hour floodplain management workshop, replacing the workshop canceled by the May 3 tornadoes.

Of the 32 who attended the workshop, seven had been pre-approved to take the OFMA Certified Floodplain Manager exam. Congratulations are in order for Nancy Wade, Bartlesville; Robert Tortorelli, Oklahoma City; Floyd Hansen, Woodward, Stephen Seikel, McLoud; Terry Thurman, Del City; Jim Leach, Tulsa; and James Roberts, Stilwell, who passed the exam.

OFMA is grateful to the Board of Directors who appointed a Professional Development Certification Commit-



Midwest City Engineer Stuart Choi was recognized as Oklahoma Floodplain Manager of the Year and received the award from Ken Morris.

tee to pursue attaining certification for Oklahoma's program. Members of the committee are Eric Wiles, Joe Remondini, Ron Flanagan, Cliff Pitner, Carolyn Schultz, Nancy Kennedy and Ken Morris. For many months, the

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Paul Zachary, former OFMA chair, presents speaker gift golf shirt to FEMA Representative Lonnie Ward at the Lake Murray conference.



Past PDCC members Cliff Pitner, Vice-Chair Joe Remondini, Ron Flanagan, Nancy Kennedy, Chairman Ken Morris, Carolyn Schultz, and Secretary Eric Wiles.

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PDCC worked closely with the ASFPM in revising and strengthening the program and won certification by the national organization.

As a result, Oklahoma floodplain managers will have an opportunity to be Certified Floodplain Managers and write the CFM designation after their names.

All materials for the program are available on the OFMA website: www.sirinet.net/ofma and may be downloaded with Adobe Acrobat.

Applicants must submit a completed application and \$25 fee to OFMA, P.O. Box 8108, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, two years experience in floodplain management and membership in OFMA.

The PDCC will review all applications and notify applicants concerning testing. The next opportunity to take the exam will be January 14 at the University of Oklahoma Adult Education Center at the conclusion of the 5-day NFIP workshop. For more information, call the OWRB at 405-530-8800 soon.

OFMA Program Nationally Accredited

(Article reprinted from the ASFPM, Inc., News and Views, October 1999.)

The Oklahoma Certified Floodplain Managers Program has become the first state program in the nation to obtain accreditation from the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc. In early September, the ASFPM Certification Board of Regents (CBOR) approved the Oklahoma program, under provisions of the Charter of the Certified Floodplain Manager Program of ASFPM.

The Charter provides that the certification programs of states may, upon meeting certain criteria and receiving the Certification Board's approval, add the designation ASFPM-accredited to their certification.

Oklahoma's program was developed by the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association, which is a chapter of the ASFPM.

In its letter granting accreditation, the CBOR noted that the Oklahoma program will be an effective tool for ensuring that floodplain managers in the state obtain and maintain the skills

and training to properly administer programs aimed at reducing flood losses. And because it is the first state to receive accreditation, the materials and procedures that Oklahoma has developed can become a model for other chapters to use in developing their programs.

Oklahoma's certification requires application and fees, continuing education, and adherence to a professional code of conduct. Applicants must demonstrate knowledge of floodplain management by passing a written exam. Oklahoma's exam covers elevation certificates, mapping, insurance, wetlands, natural and beneficial values and state-specific components.

As the Oklahoma group moves to implement its program, it will continue to coordinate with the ASFPM executive office.

The ASFPM congratulates the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association and applauds the opportunity this presents for floodplain managers in Oklahoma to receive the recognition they deserve.

11 Communities Honored for Flood Safety Efforts

In mid-September, 11 Oklahoma communities were honored by state officials for their flood control efforts resulting in lower flood insurance premiums for local residents. State Insurance Commissioner Carroll Fisher and officials of the OWRB and the Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management presented the awards at the State Capitol.

The communities honored are Bartlesville, Blackwell, Broken Arrow, Chickasha, Dewey, Edmond, Enid, Lawton, Sand Springs, Stillwater and Tulsa. The communities have exceeded minimum guidelines of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) and, as a result, residents are able to purchase flood

insurance at reduced premiums.

Discounts are five percent for residents of Bartlesville, Broken Arrow, Chickasha, Dewey, Edmond, Enid and Stillwater; 10 percent for Blackwell, Lawton and Sand Springs; 25 percent for Tulsa.

Fisher pointed out that Tulsa stands as a strong leader for flood control in the United States.



Representatives of the state's 11 model cities for flood control efforts received awards from Insurance Commissioner Carroll Fisher in ceremonies in the Blue Room at the Capitol on September 17.