

FLOOD CURRENT



Planning, Partnerships Move Association Forward



*Mike Mathis
State Floodplain Coordinator, OWRB*

As you may know by now, Ken Morris has officially retired from the OWRB. Although Ken will continue to work under contract for the Water Board and retain an important role in state floodplain management activities, I have assumed his duties as Oklahoma's State NFIP Coordinator. As chief of the OWRB's Planning and Management Division, along with my associated involvement with the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association and its members, I know firsthand of the tremendous benefits afforded through this agency's existing partnership with OFMA. Each is made stronger by the other, and both the OWRB and OFMA are more capable of achieving the state's floodplain management goals through this close and critically important working relationship. I look forward to my increased role in strengthening this partnership.

Planning has been key to the OWRB/OFMA partnership and is critical to achieving each entity's specific mission. Through the Board's ongoing strategic planning process, we have determined (and explicitly stated) that the OWRB best serves the State of Oklahoma through the formation of alliances with our many partner agencies and organizations. In this way, we increase responsiveness to our customers, expand our capabilities, reduce costs, and avoid duplication of effort. Without a doubt, one of this agency's most important alliances rests with the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

Goals included in OFMA's updated strategic plan, approved at its August meeting, mirror the Water Board's alliance-building approach. Because education and certification of Oklahoma's floodplain managers is a major focus of the organization, OFMA members must continue to

garner support from municipal organizations, the State Legislature, and other groups to implement regular training through the Water Board's Floodplain Management 101 course and other educational tools.

As Oklahoma's non-governmental floodplain management association, OFMA must continue to foster partnerships among key agencies and organizations, such as the Water Board, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Association of Professional Engineers, Oklahoma Association of Emergency Managers, Oklahoma Insurance Department, Oklahoma Association of Insurance Agents, Oklahoma Municipal League, and Oklahoma State Legislature. Such alliances not only provide OFMA with the overall support it requires, but allow access to vast expertise and experience in the flood mitigation and land development community.

These many alliances, which must be constantly nurtured, are vital to promoting local and individual responsibility in flood protection. Working together, the Water Board, OFMA, and our many current and future partners can make Oklahoma a flood-safe place to live.

Morris Retires

Following 26 years of service to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Ken Morris retired September 25. Water Board staff and friends celebrated Morris' achievement during a brief reception held in Oklahoma City.

As a member of the agency's Planning and Management Division and the state's official floodplain coordinator, Morris was cited for his personal commitment in making Oklahoma's floodplain management program one of the finest in the nation. Morris was also integral to creation and furtherance of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.



Oklahomans Honored at Annual OFMA Meeting

Eight individuals and organizations were honored for their contributions to state floodplain management at the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA), held September 21-24 in Oklahoma City. The awards and honorees are listed below:

- **Charles Don Ellison Memorial Award**
Anna Waggoner, City of Woodward
- **Public Official of the Year**
Washington County Floodplain Board
- **Floodplain Manager of the Year Award**
Searles F. (Jick) Grant, Washington County
- **Project Award (Platinum)**
City of Tulsa, Elm Creek/Centennial Park Stormwater Detention Facility
- **Outstanding Recognition**
Connie Dill & Hazard Mitigation Staff of OEM
- **Special Recognition Award**
Kent Wilkins, McAlester
Jim Coffey, City of Bixby
Laureen Gilroy, City of Tulsa
Tom Graham, Davis
David Sprouse, Madill
- **W. Kenneth Morris Honorary Lifetime Membership Award**
Ken Morris
- **Appreciation Award**
OFMA's Regional Representatives:
John Harrington (Region 1)
Nancy Wade (Region 2)
David Sprouse (Region 3)
Tom Graham (Region 4)
Robert Hitt (Region 5)
- **Special FEMA Appreciation Award**
Ken Morris



Madill's David Sprouse (right), past Region 3 Representative, receives OFMA's Appreciation Award from Andy Kincaid at the group's annual meeting in September.



Lynne Stevenson, the state's top floodplain manager of last year, presents the 2003 Floodplain Manager of the Year Award to Jick Grant (right), of the Caney River Conservation District.

NFIP Myths and Facts

Who needs flood insurance? Everyone. And everyone in a participating community of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) can buy flood insurance. Nationwide, more than 18,500 communities have joined the NFIP. In some instances, people have been told that they cannot buy flood insurance because of where they live. To clear up this and other misconceptions about flood insurance, the NFIP has compiled a list of common myths about the Program, and the real facts behind them.

Myth: You can't buy flood insurance if your property has been flooded.

Fact: It doesn't matter how many times your home, apartment, or business has flooded. You are still eligible to purchase flood insurance, provided that your community is participating in the NFIP.

Myth: Only residents of high-risk flood zones need to insure their property.

Fact: Even if you live in an area that is not flood-prone, it is advisable to have flood insurance. Between 25 and 30 percent of the NFIP's claims come from outside of high flood-risk areas. The NFIP's Preferred Risk, available for just over \$100 per year, is designed for residential properties located in low to moderate flood-risk zones.

Myth: Federal flood insurance can only be purchased directly through the NFIP.

Fact: NFIP flood insurance is backed by the federal government and sold through private insurance companies and agents.

*(Information courtesy
Federal Emergency Management Agency)*