



Flood Current



It will flood again. Are you ready?



Gavin Brady, OWRB
State Floodplain Coordinator

As you probably know, past NFIP State Coordinator, Mike Mathis, retired from the OWRB in November. Preceding Mike in that position was Ken Morris, who retired in 2003. As Mike's replacement, I am fortunate to have learned much from two of the most influential and experienced leaders of Oklahoma's floodplain management program. Their past accomplishments make my current job easier. As the new State Floodplain Coordinator, I

obviously have very big shoes to fill. Fortunately, I can draw upon the expertise of OWRB staff and utilize the exemplary leadership of the Oklahoma Floodplain Manager's Association (OFMA) to accomplish the organization's goals and objectives. I began my employment with the OWRB in Oklahoma City in 1982. I transferred to the Tulsa field office soon after the 1984 Memorial Day floods that devastated Tulsa. Since that time, I have worked closely with the NFIP and have coordinated floodplain management-related efforts in the state's northeast region. I look forward to working with you as the new State Coordinator.

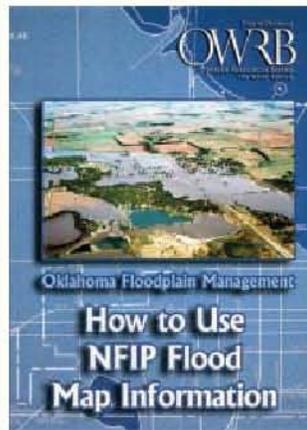
During a recent two-day retreat at the University of Oklahoma, the OFMA Board of Directors and several Committee Chairs met to review our 2006 Strategic Plan and update OFMA's Bylaws and Constitution. OFMA Chairman Lauren Gilroy facilitated the retreat and completed our objectives, even as a snowstorm blanketed the facility and closed the OU campus. You can view the results of the retreat at www.okflood.org and/or read the next BFE Newsletter in February.

As we look to the new year, please mark your calendars for a few important dates. The Floodplain Administrators 101 Workshop dates are February 15, March 14, April 19 and May 15 at the Center for Continuing Education at OU. With Governor Henry's Declaration of March 2007 as Flood Insurance Month, our training staff will take the show on the road and hold workshops in McAlester on March 6, Lawton on March 20, Bartlesville on March 22, and Woodward on March 29. Thanks to our partnership with Joe Remondini and the Corps of Engineers, 202 Workshops will also be held in March at these same locations. Also, a 202 Workshop will be held on March 27 in Oklahoma City at the OWRB office. Plenty

of opportunities to expand your floodplain management knowledge and you can register online at www.owrb.state.ok.us or call Rhonda Bowers at 405-530-8800.

With the exception of some flooding in Broken Arrow and Wagoner County, 2006 has been a year when floodplain administrators could take a relatively relaxed approach to floodplain management. This has been a year where your thoughts and activities were more focused on a lack of rainfall rather than too much. I have visited areas in Oklahoma where lake levels are approaching critical stages and I realize floodplain management may not be at the forefront of the minds of city, county, or tribal officials. But as floodplain administrators, we can't forget the value of this program. We are in a position to make a difference. The primary emphasis in establishing the NFIP back in 1968 was to provide flood insurance to flood-prone communities. We need to remember we are also protecting the lives and property of Oklahoma citizens. It will flood again...are you ready?

New Training Video Available



The OWRB is pleased to present "How to Use NFIP Flood Map Information," a video containing recommendations on the use of flood map information, other detailed forms of various flood studies, soil surveys, and historical flood records. The video also presents detailed instructions, primarily geared to floodplain administrators, on determining the base flood elevation (BFE) using a flood profile found in a Flood

Insurance Study, as well as methods for determining an approximate BFE.

The video is available to floodplain administrators free of charge during Floodplain Management classes in 2007. Go to www.owrb.state.ok.us/hazard/fp/fp_workshops.php to register.



As the NFIP State Coordinator, the OWRB partners with other state and federal agencies and local governments to prevent and mitigate the catastrophic effects of flooding disasters in Oklahoma. For more information, go to www.owrb.state.ok.us.hazard/fp/floodplain.php or call (405) 530-8800.

Sand Springs Receives CRS Award

On December 8, the City of Sand Springs received an award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency commemorating the city's move to Class 6 status under the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (CRS). The higher rating (the city was formerly Class 9) results in a 20% reduction in flood insurance premiums to Sand Springs citizens who reside in a floodplain (designated "special flood hazard area"). T. J. Davis, Sand Springs Project Administrator, is largely responsible for



Left to right: Mayor Robert L. Walker; Carl Watts, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VI representative; and T. J. Davis, Project Administrator

implementing community floodplain management activities that exceed federal requirements. Davis previously served as chairman of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association and also chaired the organization's Professional Development Certification Committee. Nationwide, only 37 communities have received a higher CRS rating than Sand Springs. The City of Tulsa, a Class 2 community, maintains the nation's second highest ranking in the NFIP's point ranking scheme.

National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System

| Class | Premium Reduction in SFHA | #U.S. Communities |
|-------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 45% | 1 |
| 2 | 40% | 1 |
| 3 | 35% | 1 |
| 4 | 30% | 1 |
| 5 | 25% | 33 |
| 6 | 20% | 80 |
| 7 | 15% | 207 |
| 8 | 10% | 422 |
| 9 | 5% | 303 |
| 10 | 0% | -- |

*Special Flood Hazard Area

PLEASE JOIN US! Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association Spring Technical Workshop

Thursday March 1, 2007
Moore-Norman Technology Center
4701 12th Ave NW, Moore

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association Spring Workshop offers a unique chance to learn about and view a major river development on the Oklahoma River in Oklahoma City.

The workshop features a bus-and-walking tour of the river development and lock facilities. This tour will provide you with first-hand knowledge of what these developments look like. You also will learn details about the process of evaluating and permitting an urban river development.

The morning training sessions on Community Development processes, Basic Training for Floodplain Administrators, and GIS training, and the afternoon river tour provide a varied and timely array of subjects.

The highlight of the Spring Conference will be the Keynote Address by Governor Brad Henry (schedule permitting).

This workshop is designed for anyone involved with floodplain issues: Floodplain Administrators; planners; engineers; insurance agents; lenders; real estate professionals; elected and appointed officials; local, state, and federal government employees; interested citizens; dam owners; developers; emergency responders; teachers; and students. Workshop provides 6 CECs.

For registration information, visit the OFMA Web site at www.okflood.org.

**"A River Runs Through It:
Build Up or Build Out"**