



Flood Current

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Community Assistance Visits

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State Floodplain Coordinator

Community Assistance Visit (CAV), the backbone of FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), is an acronym most Floodplain Administrators (FPA) are familiar with. Before Map Modernization, before the Community Rating System (CRS), before No Adverse Impact (NOI), before any of these programs, there was the CAV. Some communities welcome a CAV while others dread it.

In the 1970s, FEMA enrolled more than 15,000 NFIP communities. Allowing communities to participate in the NFIP made low-cost federally subsidized flood insurance potentially available to anyone. There was one catch, however. Communities must regulate development in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). "Regulate" was, and still is, a nasty word in Oklahoma, especially in rural areas. Nevertheless, by the 1980s, FEMA needed a tool to monitor floodplain management programs, and the CAV quickly became FEMA's most comprehensive form of contact with NFIP member communities.

A number of communities are selected and visited annually because of development pressure, flood history, high or repetitive insurance claims, known problems, or other indicators of difficulty with NFIP requirements. Once a community has been chosen, the OWRB contacts the floodplain administrator and schedules a tour to document any SFHA development. The definition for "development" includes any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, or storage of equipment or materials.

After the tour is completed, a meeting is scheduled with community officials that might include the FPA, Mayor, County Commissioners, Floodplain Board members, City or District Attorneys, building inspectors, and anybody else associated with the floodplain management program. At this time, any floodplain development encountered during the tour is discussed and development permits are reviewed. The OWRB will also review the community's local floodplain ordinance or regulations.

One key item the OWRB pays particular attention to is the referenced adopted Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) or Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM). In Oklahoma, any time a community receives a new map they are required to adopt it and reference the title and date in the updated ordinance. Most older ordinances have a statement in the ordinance that basically reads as follows: "...the current map is effective and any revisions thereto." With guidance from the Attorney General's office, the OWRB was instructed to remove this language and always adopt the new maps with a new ordinance or regulation. This is very time consuming but something we feel very strongly about at the OWRB.

In the 1980s, the CAV represented the only opportunity the OWRB had to discuss floodplain management with local community officials, and that might only happen once every five years. While the CAV remains a valuable tool, many other programs introduced over the years have helped bridge the gap between state and local governments.

Oklahoma was the second State in Region VI to require annual accreditation and training with local FPAs. The accreditation program allows us the opportunity to interact with the 382 participating Oklahoma communities at least annually. We hope to continue with that trend and build a relationship that can only aid in our quest to improve our floodplain management programs.

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As the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) State Coordinator, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (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.ok.gov/hazard/fp/floodplain.php or call (405) 530-8800.

ASFPM Conference Coming to OKC

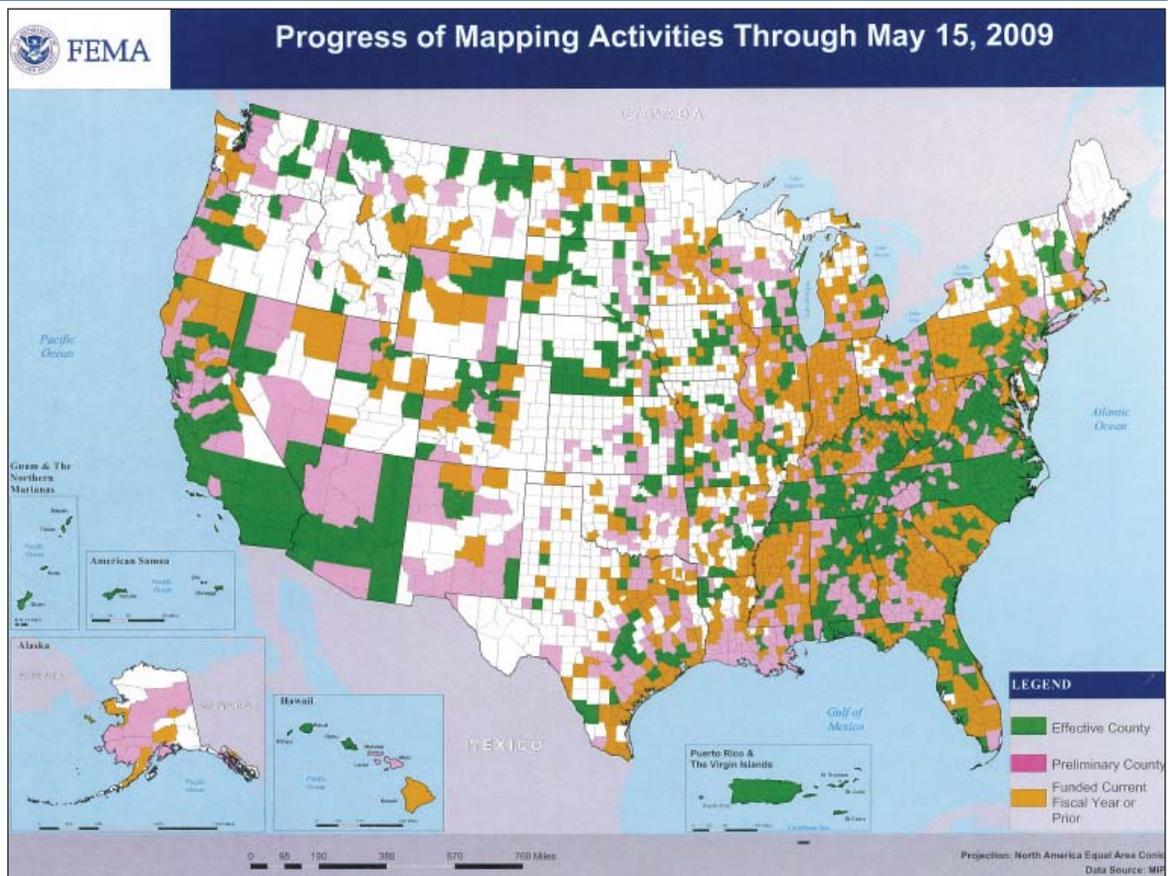
On May 16-21, 2010, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) 34th Annual National Conference will be held in Oklahoma City at the Cox Convention Center. The Conference theme is "Building Blocks of Floodplain Management."

This will be an excellent opportunity for local officials from all over Oklahoma to attend the national floodplain management conference and see what other communities around the world are doing to reduce flood losses and protect the natural and beneficial use of the floodplain. The leaders of ISO, FEMA, USACE, NRCS, and NOAA will be in attendance to share cutting edge activities and programs designed to improve managing our floodplains.

Other activities to look forward to are a number of full day or half day floodplain workshops, technical field trips, spouse field trips, the silent auction, and the Thursday night celebration. The workshops and field trips are usually offered on Sunday, Monday, and Friday of the conference week. Officially the conference



In May, approximately 1,300 floodplain managers met in Orlando, Florida for the 33rd ASFPM National Conference. Leaders in floodplain management from Australia, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Portugal, Italy, Poland, and several tribes were in attendance. Oklahoma's delegation included: (seated left to right) Anna Waggoner, Carolyn Schultz, Ken Morris, Bill Smith, (middle row) Phillip Beauchamp, Janet Meshek, Clark Williams, Dee Robison, Ruth Walters, (back row) Amy Brandley, Ron Flanagan, Jeff Bigby, Joe Remondini, Gavin Brady, Bill Robison, and Kent Wilkins.



begins on Tuesday morning and adjourns on Thursday afternoon. However, attendees can stay over and take advantage of possible technical field tours and workshops offered on Friday and sometimes Saturday as well.

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association, OWRB and other partners are sharing in supporting and hosting the 2010 National Conference in downtown Oklahoma City. Make plans to attend this premier floodplain management training opportunity and stay tuned for more updates throughout the year. Many OFMA members are working hard to ensure this conference is one of the best ever with Past Chair Bill Smith of Mannford, Oklahoma, leading the conference team. For more information about the conference please contact Ken Morris at 405-530-8800 or go to the ASFPM web site at www.floods.org.

FPM Workshop Schedule: 2009-10 Training Year

Aug. 3-7, 2009	MFD	Norman	Mar. 16, 2010	101	Lawton
Oct. 8, 2009	101	Norman	Mar. 16, 2010	AFM	Lawton
Jan. 11-15, 2010	MFD	Norman	Mar. 23, 2010	101	Woodward
Jan. 12, 2010	SDE	Tulsa	Mar. 23, 2010	AFM	Woodward
Feb. 9, 2010	101	Norman	Apr. 20, 2010	101	Norman
Feb. 9, 2010	LMC	Tulsa	Apr. 20, 2010	AFM	Norman
Mar. 4, 2010	101	McAlester	May 4, 2010	101	Norman
Mar. 4, 2010	AFM	McAlester	May 4, 2010	SDE	Norman
Mar. 9, 2010	101	Bartlesville	May 6, 2010	101	Norman
Mar. 9, 2010	AFM	Bartlesville	May 6, 2010	LMC	Norman

Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP (MFD); Floodplain Management 101 (101); Map Modernization (MM), Map Adoption Process (MAP); Advanced Floodplain Management (AFM); Substantial Damage Estimator (SDE); or Letter of Map Change (LMC)

Register online at http://www.owrb.ok.gov/hazard/fp/fp_workshops.php.

EPA Waiver Requirement

Does your community's flood damage prevention ordinance (FDPO) contain an EPA Waiver requirement? This requirement might be the best tool in your floodplain management tool box to prevent future flood loss in your community.

Based on EPA Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 12148 concerning Floodplain Management, federal agencies must avoid, to the extent possible, the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative. Also, federal agencies are to support proper floodplain management to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impacts of floods on human safety, health, and welfare, and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.

Since EPA and FEMA have been charged with different missions by the U.S. Congress, EPA emphasizes community protection of the floodplain's ecology while FEMA focuses on protecting human lives and property. In order for EPA to accomplish the objectives of these Executive Orders, under the sanction of the OMB and EPA Headquarters, on January 12, 1982, EPA Region 6 issued "Guidelines for the Construction Grants Program" as a grant condition in the community's grant agreement. The following is an example of those guidelines:

- a. The community or recipient agrees that no wastewater generated by development located in the 100 year floodplain, as delineated on the FEMA floodplain map, shall be transported or treated by the project facilities for a period of 50 years. This restriction does not apply to development which by its nature, must be located on or adjacent to water, such as a marina or which existed prior to the date of this grant.
- b. The community or recipient agrees to adopt and enforce suitable ordinances and implement procedures for effective local administration of this floodplain service area restriction. On application of the community's governing body and after considering all relevant information on a proposed development's effects on the natural functions and values of the affected floodplain, the EPA Regional Administrator may waive the service area restriction on a case by case basis.
- c. This service area restriction is to benefit any person, organization, or entity interested in preservation of the natural environment in the mapped 100 year floodplain. Furthermore if the community or recipient fail to enforce the service area restriction a beneficiary can seek enforcement of the restriction against the community, if the community failed to take corrective action after the 90 day notification.

Furthermore, EPA Region 6 has not waived the service area restriction in any case since this floodplain guideline was implemented.

This "Waiver of Service Area Restriction" applies to communities that have received funds to improve, upgrade, or construct new wastewater treatment facilities from the Clean Water Construction Grants Program. On January 12, 1982, EPA Region 6 imposed this requirement on applicable construction projects. Communities that have received such funds since 1982 add language to their FDPO similar to the following:

Development Generating Waste Water Restricted; Waiver.

Irrespective of any other provisions to the contrary herein, from and after the effective date of this section, there shall be no new development permitted within the 100-year floodplain (as delineated on the latest publication of the National Flood Insurance Program's flood insurance map for this city) which would generate wastewater to be transported to the wastewater treatment facilities of the "local" Municipal Authority.

An owner/developer of property situated in the said floodplain may make request, in writing, to the city for a waiver of service area restriction only in cases where the said owner/developer can sufficiently show that the natural environment in the 100-year floodplain would be preserved if the waiver was granted. Said written request for a waiver of service area restriction must be submitted to the floodplain administrator of the city who, upon review thereof, will judge whether the requested waiver is conformant to the intent of this section, the request for a waiver of service area restriction shall be denied. Should the findings of the floodplain administrator be that the requested waiver would not violate the intent of this section, or have detrimental effect upon the natural functions and values of the affected floodplain, and then such a request would be presented to the city commission for its consideration and possible approval. After city commission approval, the city would submit the request to the U.S. EPA's regional administrator for review and possible approval. It is specifically the intent of this Section that the said regional administrator be the final authority in all such requests for a waiver of service area restriction.

So, does your community's FDPO contain an EPA Waiver Requirement? If so, this could be a valuable tool in your floodplain managers tool box to prevent future flood loss in your community and protect the natural and beneficial functions of your floodplains.

Hank Elling Retiring

Hank Elling from the OWRB's Lawton office was recognized at the July Oklahoma Floodplain Manager's Association (OFMA) Board meeting.

Elling has worked for the OWRB for 22 years, many of those as the OFMA Regional Representative in Southwest Oklahoma. Elling will be retiring and moving to New York State in August.



Left to right: Amy Brandley, Clint Strawn, Leslie Lewis, Dale Lasley, Hank Elling, Gavin Brady, Ellen Stevens, Ken Morris, Bill Robison, Dee Robison, Tom Leatherbee and Clark Williams.

Oklahoma Floodplain Management Program

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

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The 1980 Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act authorizes communities to develop floodplain regulations, designate flood hazard areas and establish floodplain boards. Community floodplain administrators must become accredited and receive training through the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB). Consistent with protecting the natural functions of the floodplain and reducing flood losses, the OWRB values the No Adverse Impact floodplain management approach, promoting responsible floodplain development through community-based decision making. For more information about Oklahoma's Floodplain Management Program, go to www.owrb.ok.gov/hazard/fp/floodplain.php or visit the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association's web site at www.okflood.org.

THE 19TH ANNUAL OFMA CONFERENCE STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA - SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2009

"Smart Development: Good for Floodplains, Good for Everyone"

Session Topics

- Mitigation and Watershed Restoration Projects
- Rooftops to Rivers . . . managing local (non-FEMA) floodplains
- 404 Permits and Other Water Quality Issues
- Dam Safety
- Hands-On Public Outreach – "Stream Trailer"
- Flood Insurance, ICC topics
- Community adoption of LID
- Analytical tools
- Phase II Regulations

Exciting Tours

- USDA Hydraulics Lab
- Stillwater Creek Wetland
- LID BMPS at the Botanical Gardens

Register Early!



Registration and Reservation information on the OFMA Website www.okflood.org