High Waters

A Publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association

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June 2015

Fall Workshop

Water, Paperwork and Floodplains - Back to the Basics

The Fall 2015 NMFMA Workshop and Conference is coming up October 6-9, 2015 in Ruidoso, NM at the <u>Ruidoso Convention Center</u>. Contact Curt Temple at 575-258-5934 or <u>ctemple@lincolncountynm.gov</u> if you have any questions or would like to present.

Lodging is the <u>The Lodge at Sierra Blanca</u> next door to the convention center or at the <u>Hotel Ruidoso</u> downtown. You are encouraged to make reservations early and ask for the NMFMA or government rate.



Sponsor Appreciation

Our Conferences, Workshops, and Socials are not possible without the support of our sponsors. Thank you for helping to make the Spring 2015 Workshop in Albuquerque a success!







Spring Workshop

Presentations, field trips, socials, and news crews made for a great Spring Workshop.



Spring Workshop



High Waters | June 2015 | http://www.nmfma.org

From the Chair - Dave Turk

David Turk, CFM, GISP (505) 238-3800 <u>dave.turk@aecom.com</u>

The abundance of rain this spring is a welcome sight for New Mexico; however, it also emphasizes the important role that we all play in our communities as floodplain managers. I am also extremely proud about the recent news coverage that we received from KOB (Channel 4) and KRQE (Channel 13) regarding our important Turn Around Don't Drown low water crossing road sign initiative. This



initiative is a great example of how NMFMA, NMDHSEM, and FEMA can establish partnerships to advance NMFMA's mission of educating our citizens about flood hazards. I commend each of you for your participation in advancing this mission as floodplain management leaders across the state.

Among major events that have already occurred this year, NMFMA's Spring Conference was a huge success! I have received numerous comments about the excellent quality and value of the conference program.

I extend great thanks to Curtis Cherne (Conference Director), Loretta Hatch and Rigel Rucker (Program Directors), Mike Czosnek (Conference Committee Chair), Workshop Sponsors, and all presenters that contributed to its success. It is inspiring to see the tremendous amount of support from our membership that leads to such top notch conferences, technical workshops, and related events that NMFMA is proud of. Each of your contributions is recognized and valued by our members and communities.

I also want to take this time to extend my gratitude to you for reelecting me as your Chair. For the remainder of my two-year term I plan to focus on the following two initiatives: (1) Continue to strengthen and expand our partnerships with the State, FEMA, and other entities to enable NMFMA to further carry its mission into our communities --including the continuation of programs such as the Turn Around Don't Drown signs, Flood Awareness Calendar, and the Flood Simulator -- and (2) Strengthen our training opportunities by offering a wider variety of floodplain management courses to our members so that you can continue to be the leaders in your communities regarding floodplain management.

In order to provide additional training offerings/courses, we need for you to bring your expertise and enthusiasm to our Training and Education Committee. I urge you to contact Jim DeAngelo (Training & Education Chair; 505-206-1750 or jim.deangelo@aecom.com) to discuss how we can provide a wider variety of workshops to meet your needs.

Lastly, the NMFMA Board is planning to conduct its Annual Retreat during the weekend of August 8-9, in Albuquerque. Please submit any topics to me or any Board member (e.g. creation of new NMFMA committees) that you would like for us to discuss and possibly incorporate into our annual strategic planning.

Thank you for your attention. Please enjoy your summer and all my best wishes in your continued participation in floodplain management leadership in the state and across your communities!



New Mexico Certified Floodplain Managers

Grant Pinkerton, CFM Chair, Certification Committee

The CFM exam was proctored at the NMFMA Spring workshop in Albuquerque, NM, April 15, 2015 at the MCM Elegante hotel. Congratulations to the following new CFMs who passed the exam in Albuquerque:

Timothy Corner	Taos County
Warren Hardin	Eddy County
Dorson Mahooty	City of Gallup
Rudy Rael	City of Albuquerque
Thomas Vigil	Colfax County

The CFM exam was also proctored on Friday following the FEMA L273 Class that was given in Bernalillo County in May. Congratulations to the following CFMs who passed the exam on May 15, 2015:

Lisa Hale-BlueEyes	City of Farmington
Christina Estrada	Town of Estancia
Nathaniel Feddes	Village of Los Lunas
John Lovato	Santa Fe County
Frances Medina	City of Grants
Amanda Melvin	Eddy County
Bonnie Pettee	Town of Edgewood
Burl Smith	Village of Angel Fire
Jess Weston	Village of Los Lunas



The CFM exam is proctored several times each year. If you are interested in taking the exam, please remember that no matter what paperwork or on-line registration you submit for any specific workshop, class, or other function, YOU MUST SUBMIT A CFM EXAM APPLICATION PACKET to the Certification Board before you can be scheduled to take the exam. The packet is downloadable from the Certification page of the NMFMA website. The Application Packet should be mailed to the Roswell address noted in the packet. Any questions should be directed to Grant Pinkerton, Certification Board Chair, at nmcfm@cableone.net.

From the Conference Committee

Mike Czosnek, CFM (575) 835-0240 <u>mczosnek@socorronm.gov</u>

The Conference Committee has established conference sites as follows:

October 6-9, 2015, Ruidoso, Curt Temple Conference and Program Director (he could use some help if anyone is interested)

Mid April 2016 Somewhere in the Albuquerque Santa Fe corridor, Joe Barela, Conference Director, Sean O'Melveny Program Director, Technical Track Program Director, Eric Nemeth

Mid September 2016, Deming ,NM, Phil Butz Conference Director, Program director...open

At the direction of the Board of Directors, the Fall workshop/Conferences will be held in Mid-September of each year. 2016 was the first opportunity for this change.

I would like to thank Curtis Cherne, Conference Director, Loretta Hatch, Program Director and Rigel Rucker, Technical Program Director for their outstanding effort with the Spring Workshop/Conference this past April. In addition, I would like to thank our sponsors for once again helping with cash sponsorships and exhibits. A very special thank you to Souder, Miller, and Associates for the full sponsorship of the Wednesday evening Social.

A special thank you to our Executive Director and Conference Committee member Grant Pinkerton. Once again registration ran smoothly and I think everyone was able to register and vote without any delay, Thanks Grant!

The Conference Committee received some pretty good feedback from conference attendees and we will be trying to incorporate the many suggestions in upcoming workshop/conferences.

The Conference Committee has already begun conference calls with future conference and program directors. Anyone wishing to host a workshop/conference or help with a conference program please contact me and we will help you get started.





In and Around New Mexico with the State NFIP Coordinator

Bill Borthwick, CFM, State Floodplain Coordinator (505) 476-9617 <u>william.borthwick@state.nm.us</u>

Where has all the time gone? Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program (L273) was conducted in Albuquerque on May 11 to May 14, 2015 at the Bachechi Environmental Center Education Building (part of the Bernalillo County Open Space Program). What a beautiful environment! Wild geese, wild ducks, and turtles were seen in this bosque setting. As most of you know, this is the four-day course that introduces participants to floodplain management and the NFIP. Many floodplain managers take this course in preparation for the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam.

There were 19 participants that took the course. I am most proud that all the students were local designated Floodplain Administrators. There were 17 candidates that took the Certified Floodplain Managers examination. Congratulations to the newest CFMs in the state; Christina Estrada, Town of Estancia; Nathaniel Feddes, Village of Los Lunas; Lisa Hale-BlueEyes, City of Farmington; John Lovato, Santa Fe County; Francis Medina, City of Grants; Bonnie Pettee, City of Edgewood; Burl Smith, Village of Angel Fire; and Jess Weston, Village of Los Lunas.

I would like to thank Dale Hoff CFM, FEMA Natural Hazard Program Specialist (course lead instructor) and Jerry Clark, P.E., CFM, FEMA Mapping instructor. The New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association hosted the event. Special thanks also goes to Don Briggs, P.E., CFM, and Tiquan Chen, CFM, who coordinated logistics and provided the refreshments. We anticipate offering the course again in the spring of 2016. If you are interested in taking the course prior to that time please contact me about the course at the Emergency Management Institute.

New Mexico Hazard Mitigation Assistance Update

Wendy Blackwell, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, NMDHSEM 476-9676 wendy.blackwell@state.nm.us

Has Your Community Applied for FEMA Mitigation Funding?

The State's Mitigation Program is in full swing with more than 45 Sub-grants underway. There are mitigation plans, flood mitigation projects and flood warning projects being implemented around the state. Some examples of the projects currently funded are; arroyo safety education, stream gauges linked to warning systems and drainage improvements. Applications are under consideration for a debris flow barrier project, a bank stabilization project and for basin-wide drainage improvements. Does your community have an application submitted for a flood mitigation activity? If not, please consider submitting a Notice of Interest (http://www.nmdhsem.org/Grants.aspx).

We currently have more than \$8 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to use for natural hazard mitigation projects state-wide. Eligible project types are listed below. We anticipate that the funding announcement will be released shortly for the annual Pre-disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant programs. There will be a 45-day application period. We will be sure to get notice out about the exact dates and deadlines.

But, don't wait to submit a Notice of Interest for a mitigation project. Your community can submit a Notice of Interest at any time and then begin working on the full application. As most of you know, there must be a FEMA approved mitigation plan in place in order for the project funds to be awarded. However, the State will consider your application if the mitigation plan is expected to be submitted within one year. So, get started now!

If you have questions or want to discuss how your community can take advantage of the available funding, please contact me at 505-476-9676 or wendy.blackwell@state.nm.us . You can also contact Kevin Dodge (CFM!), Mitigation Specialist, at 505-476-9608 or keving.dodge@state.nm.us .

Continued on next page ...

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Eligible Activities	HMGP	PDM	FMA
Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition or Relocation	· ·	 ✓ 	✓
Structure Elevation	~	~	~
Minor Localized Flood Reduction Projects	 ✓ 	v	~
Structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities	 ✓ 	~	
Non-structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities	V	~	~
Dry Floodproofing of Historic Residential Structures	 ✓ 	~	~
Dry Floodproofing of Non-Residential Structures	 ✓ 	~	~
Infrastructure Retrofit	 ✓ 	~	
Soil Stabilization	 ✓ 	✓	
Post-Disaster Code Enforcement	 ✓ 		
Wildfire Mitigation	 ✓ 	✓	
Wind Retrofits	 ✓ 	✓	
Generators	 ✓ 	✓	
5% Initiatives			
Safe Room Construction		 ✓ 	
Hazard Mitigation Planning	 ✓ 	v	

New Mexico Hazard Mitigation Assistance Update

TADD Article

Katie Collins Garrett NWS

The National Weather Service has recognized the efforts of NMDHSEM, NMFMA, and FEMA in the latest issue of their Aware Newsletter. Read the full article at <u>http://</u> www.nws.noaa.gov/os/ Aware/pdfs/15mayaware.pdf

Community Assistance Program Helps Buy Turn Around Don't Drown Signs

By <u>Kerry Jones</u>, WCM Albuquerque, NM, and <u>Katie</u> <u>Garrett</u>, NWS Communications, Silver Spring, MD

Flash flooding is incredibly dangerous in the Desert Southwest and is especially common during the summer monsoon season. Since 1959, 64 New Mexicans have lost their lives and another 78 have been seriously injured in flash floods; 66 percent of the fatalities occurred when a vehicle was driven into flood waters.

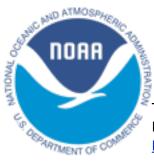
To address this annual threat, the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NM DHSEM) and the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association (NMFMA), in coordination with the NWS, launched the Turn Around

2 | NWS Aware



The first Turn Around Don't Drown® sign recipient was Lincoln County, NM. From left are Curt Temple (Lincoln County), Bill Borthwick (NM DHSEM). and Samantha Mendez (Lincoln County).

May 2015



NWS/NOAA Outreach

Kerry Jones, NWS

The NWS has provided us with an updated precipitation report for May that is available at http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/abq/

Briefings/HeavyRainfall-051815.pdf







Summer Safety

The NWS Weather Ready Nation Program has released its Summer Safety Information Kit which contains links, stories, outreach material, and other information related to summer safety. Learn more at

http://nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/summer_safety.html#.VWzW5GAT5UQ



CAP-SSSE Projects

Bill Borthwick and J.D. Padilla attended the FEMA Community Assistance Program - State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) meeting in Denton, Texas in May. Bill and JD were able to highlight the work that has gone on in New Mexico using CAP-SSSE funds such as the Flood Risk Awareness Calendar, the TADD signs, and the September 2013 Story Map.



NMFMA distributed 85 TADD signs at the Spring Workshop in Albuquerque in April. Those signs have already started popping up around the state. To see if there are signs near you visit the TADD New Mexico story map at <u>http://arcg.is/1IE5Xt3</u>.



Turn Around Don't Drown: State Highways and Warning Signage

Nicole Friedt, P.E., CFM, NMDOT (505) 827-5329 nicole.friedt@state.nm.us

As a continuation of our mission by the NMFMA to make the public aware of flood hazards, this last year the NMFMA obtained 85 'When Flooded Turn Around Don't Drown' (TADD) signs through the CAP-SSSE grant process and with the partnership of NM DHSEM. This is a continuation of the National Weather Service's initiative. To keep this initiative on a roll, the question arises as to how we can get these signs at low water crossings on the state highway roads.

All state highways have to conform to the Federal Highway Administration regulations, and as such, signage along those highways is no different. The National Weather Service worked closely with the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration to develop two officially sanctioned road signs: a Permanent Warning sign and a Temporary Incident Sign.

The warning sign is to alert drivers of a possible danger ahead and should be deployed at locations where the incidence of flooding is high, the onset of flooding is rapid, and/or it is not practical to deploy incident signs in a timely manner. The warning signs, as we know, are black lettering on a yellow background. The Incident management signs are a specific type of Temporary Traffic Control sign that is deployed in response to a short-term event. The incident signs are black lettering on a pink background.

The NMDOT has the ability to make and install any traffic control sign needed for safety on state highways. If you have a low water crossing that falls on a state highway and you would like it signed, send me an email (<u>nicole.friedt@state.nm.us</u>) and we can work together to get your local district and patrol to install the signs at no cost to your community. This will allow you to save the NMFMA TADD signs for your local community roads where needed.





Support Your Local FPA

Timothy Corner, CFM

Which community do you work for?

Taos County

What is your title within your community?

GIS Specialist / Rural Addressing Coordinator / Floodplain Manager

How long have you been a floodplain administrator for your community?

I have been the floodplain administrator for 3 months. I am now a qualified CFM after passing the exam at the NMFMA Spring Conference.



What are some of the challenges that your community faces related to floodplain management?

My biggest concern is complacency. Frequently constituents I am working with will tell me that they have never seen a drop of water in an arroyo and they have lived here for 30 years. But the arroyo was formed at some point in time by a flash flood and that could happen again anytime. From the Spring Conference I gleaned the significance of inter-related hazards. I think connecting flooding to forest fire is a good way of selling the potential risk of flooding in Taos County to those who doubt it. Forest Fire is something for which people in Taos County appear to have more awareness and respect.

Working with approximate A Zones is a frequent challenge as is the quality of the FEMA SFHAs produced in 2010. The approximate A zones, with no base flood elevation, cause constituents to complain that they should not be in a SFHA. However I cannot tell them what elevation they should be at to successfully appeal using the LOMA process. We also have issues with the SFHAs actually missing the river channel in several places. This makes it hard for me to credibly support the FEMA data in some locations. I hope that we will be able to work with FEMA in the future and use their ever improving methods to produce better data for Taos County. The acquisition of LiDAR data would give us better inputs into the FEMA models and produce much more accurate results. This in turn will allow me to do a better job of serving and protecting my community.

Arroyos and acequias are challenging water features for floodplain management. Many of these pose a potential flooding hazard but fall outside of the SFHAs. To protect these areas we rely on a variety of ordinances, but there are instances where the ordinances allow development in areas that are not truly desirable. We are working on refining our land use ordinance to help protect our water sources.

Support Your Local FPA

Describe some success stories you have experienced as a floodplain administrator within your community?

In the three months I have been working here as the Floodplain Manager I have only had two development projects in SFHAs. When I have needed help I have turned to many of my fellow CFMs in New Mexico for advice and have found the community incredibly supportive. Given the nature of floodplain management at the community level my fellow CFMs come from a variety of backgrounds GIS, engineering, planning and building inspection. So there is a vast breadth and depth of knowledge in the CFM community. I think that the supportive community of CFMs created by the NMFMA is a success story for every local community in New Mexico.

Briefly describe any ongoing floodplain management projects within your community.

We are working on a couple of projects that have impacts on floodplain management. We are looking into the possibility of grant funding for forest management related to protecting the water in the Upper Rio Grande valley. We are also looking into LiDAR data acquisition which would be a big step towards producing more accurate SFHA mapping in the future.

What changes or improvements would you like to see within the NMFMA?

It is a little too early for me to make an assessment of the functioning of the NMFMA. From my experience at the Spring Conference it appears that there is a strong core of people working hard and doing a good job of running an important organization. Keep up the good work!



@ Reed Withoutly & Co.

Dona Aña County OEM and Floodplain Model

David Almaguer Office of Emergency Management, Doña Ana County <u>davidal@donaanacounty.org</u>

4th Annual Las Cruces Water Festival

The Dona Ana County Office of Emergency Management partnered with our Local Emergency Planning Committee and provided information regarding emergency preparedness and planning for natural disasters.

We spoke to close to 500 3rd and 4th grade students and teachers at the 4th Annual Las Cruces Water Festival sponsored by the City of Las Cruces Water Utilities department and the Las Cruces Museums System. Each group of students visited a number of presenters invited from throughout the region, who provided a 3-5 minute hands-on activity that related to water conservation and relevant topics.

Students attending the Water Festival received a Water Festival swag bag. This bag contained information about the participating groups, a student passport and pencil. The passport was completed by the students, either singly or as a group and returned to City of Las Cruces staff so they could evaluate what they learned.



The Voice – Increasing Awareness, Encouraging Mitigation Action

FEMA Region VI

FEMA Region 6 has just released the latest issue of our newsletter, The Voice, and it is available on our website at <u>http://www.riskmap6.com/documents/resource/TheVoice_Mar2015_Vol10508.pdf</u>. You can sign up on RiskMAP6.com to receive future issues of The Voice newsletter upon publication release.

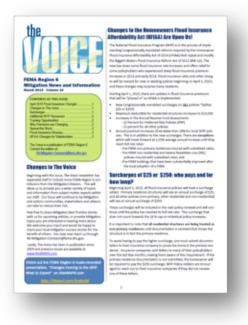
The March 2015 issue includes articles, information, and links related to the April 2015 Changes to the NFIP. Articles on the changes, surcharges, additional training for agents, and links to current resources and our latest audio-recorded presentation on the HFIAA are included.

Beginning with this issue, The Voice newsletter has expanded staff to include more FEMA Region 6 contributors from the Mitigation Division. This will allow us to provide you a wider variety of topics and information from subject matter experts within our staff. Our focus will continue to be mitigation and actions communities, stakeholders and citizens can take to reduce their risk.

We encourage our readers to share local Mitigation Success stories with us for future issues of The Voice. You may now reach us through <u>R6-Mitigation-Outreach@fema.dhs.gov</u>.

Local officials looking for ways to easily and effectively share and communicate flood risk information with their community are encouraged to browse through the Risk Communications Guidebook for Local Official, available online at http://www.riskmap6.com/guidebook.aspx.

The Voice has been in publication since 2009 and previous issues are available at <u>www.RiskMAP6.com</u>.



FROM THE EDITOR

Michael Camponovo, CFM (505) 277-3622 <u>mcamponovo@edac.unm.edu</u>

Thank you to everyone for contributing to our latest issue of High Waters. There is always a lot going on in the state from training, to conferences, to new projects. It is always a pleasure to read what you've been up to and share with the membership.

I'm especially proud of the hard work that has gone into acquiring a variety of grants and funding sources to promote flood risk awareness and education.

See you in October.

With ym

Michael Camponovo

New FEMA NFHL Data for Google Earth

Sea O'Melvney, CFM

Customer and Data Services (CDS) has released new versions (V3.0.1) of the Keyhole Markup Language (.kmz) files for viewing the FEMA Stay Dry and National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) overlays in Google Earth. Users of a previous version should upgrade to the new version. Below are direct links to download the newest kmz versions:

- Stay Dry v3.0.1 kmz
- •FEMA NFHL v3.0.1 kmz

Visit the <u>Using the National Flood Hazard Layer Web Map</u> <u>Service (WMS) in Google Earth page</u> for instructions on how to view the overlays in Google Earth using the new kmz files.

Purpose of the NMFMA

- 1. To promote public awareness of proper floodplain management;
- 2. To promote the professional status of floodplain management and secure all benefits resulting there from;
- 3. To promote a liaison between individual concerns with proper floodplain management and to encourage the exchange of ideas;
- 4. To keep individuals concerned with proper floodplain management well informed through education and professional seminars and to provide a method for dissemination of information, both general and technical;
- 5. To inform concerned individuals of pending floodplain legislation and other related management matters, and;
- 6. To study and support legislation pertinent and necessary to the effective implementation of floodplain management matters.

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