



NEW MEXICO HIGH WATERS

A Publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association

Volume 16 Issue 4

December 2007

NMFMA SPRING 2008 CONFERENCE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

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SPRING 2008 CONFERENCE April 9, 10, 11, 2008

The Spring Conference dates have changed since they were announced in Farmington. The current (and final) dates are Wednesday, April 9th through Friday, April 11th, 2008. Diane Calhoun will teach the one-day NFIP Refresher Course on Tuesday, April 8th and the CFM exam will be given on Wednesday morning, April 9th. The Conference will start at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, April 9th, 2008. We will share more on the agenda, speakers and workshops in a later newsletter. But, for now... **SAVE THE DATE!**

The Conference Hotel is:

Courtyard by Marriott
3347 Cerrillos Rd
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Phone: 505-473-2800



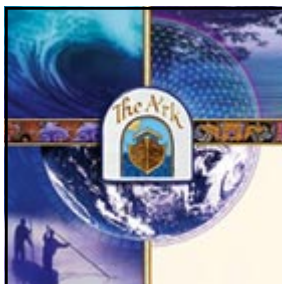
Check out Page 9 for a Call for Ideas for activities in Santa Fe during the conference.

For hotel reservations, contact the Courtyard by Marriott at the number listed above. When making your reservations, mention the "New Mexico Floodplain Managers." We have a group rate of \$85 per night (single or double).

If you have questions, comments, or want to present a paper at the conference, please contact Wendy Blackwell, CFM at 505-955-6127 or email at wblackwell@santafenm.gov.



Mark you calendar and make reservations. This is going to be a great conference with great presentations. But of course, we're going to have some FUN!



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**NEW MEXICO
CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS****Grant Pinkerton, CFM**
Chair, Certification Committee
(505) 624-6562

Welcome to New Mexico David Freeborn, currently working with DHSEM in Santa Fe. David transferred his CFM certification from Texas earlier this year. We also have 5 new CFMs who passed the exam in Farmington in October 2007:

Jame Eisenberg – Bernalillo County
Brian Tyhuis – URS Corp
Danny Jones – City of Artesia
Jonathan Zerangue – URS Corp
James Naranjo – Rio Arriba County

Congratulations on passing the NM CFM exam. We currently have 145 active New Mexico Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs).

New Mexico communities with mapped flood hazard areas are required by New Mexico State Statute to join the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), adopt a local flood damage prevention ordinance, and have a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) to administer the ordinance. There are still many communities not yet fully compliant with State Statute 3-18-7.

NMFMA continues to assist communities in meeting the State requirements. At all NMFMA conferences, a one-day refresher course and the CFM exam are offered. The refresher course is held on Tuesday, the day prior to the conference. The CFM exam is given on Wednesday morning from 09:00 am to 12:00 noon. The conference begins at 1:00 on Wednesday. Register for our 2008 Spring Conference to be held in Santa Fe, NM next April. Hotel information is on the front page of this newsletter.

The NMFMA web site, www.nmfma.org, is currently not active. You can access the site at www.nmfma.com. There are several publications that are excellent study material for the exam. Click on Publications on the home page. The Ready Reference for New Mexico Floodplain Managers and the Quick Guide are two easy to understand documents that can be downloaded from the web. The ASFPM web site, www.floods.org, also has a link to the FEMA 480 Study Guide and Desk Reference. Click on Certification, then on Exam Info, then click FEMA 480. It is a large document that can be downloaded chapter by chapter.

Remember: In order to take the CFM exam, an application and fee must be submitted and approved prior to the date of the exam. The application package is available on the NMFMA website. Click on Certification, then Read, Print, or Download the Application Package for the NMFMA CFM Exam.



In and Around New Mexico with the State NFIP Coordinator

**Bill Borthwick, CFM
State NFIP Coordinator
505-476-9617**

The following New Mexico County Scoping Meeting Follow-ups have or will be conducted by MAP6:

- San Juan County, New Mexico October 16, 2007
- Valencia County, New Mexico December 10, 2007
- Otero County, New Mexico December 13, 2007

The following Community Assistance Contacts (CAC)s have been accomplished for FY 2008:

- Chaves County, New Mexico;
- City of Clovis, New Mexico;
- City of Farmington, New Mexico;
- City of Las Vegas, New Mexico;
- City of Lovington, New Mexico;
- City of Rio Rancho, New Mexico;
- McKinley County, New Mexico;
- Village of Reserve, New Mexico
- Santa Fe County, New Mexico

Contact information for Bill Borthwick:

Bill Borthwick, CFM
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (DHSEM)
PREPAREDNESS BUREAU
P.O. Box 27111 Physical Address: 13 Bataan Blvd.
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502 Santa Fe, NewMexico 87508
Phone No. (505) 476-9617
Facsimile No. (505) 476-9695
E-Mail William.borthwick@state.nm.us

ESTA LLOVIENDO CULEBRAS Y CUBEROS



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Mitigation Grant Program

FEMA has released the guidance for the Fiscal Year 2008 cycle of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant program. This program is an annual, nationally competitive program for mitigation projects and plans.

Each state has the possibility of receiving up to \$500,000 in grants before being subject to the national competition, providing that the applications meet FEMA requirements.

Please see the following document for additional information. This information should be on the NMFMA website soon as well. <http://www.nmfma.com/>

If you are interested in applying or have additional questions please contact me.

Also, the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) information has been released. I'm hoping to get this information out to you soon. You can contact Mr. Borthwick for information on these two grants.

David L. R. Freeborn, CFM
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Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program guidance. The program funds pre-disaster hazard mitigation projects and plans that reduce risk to communities while reducing reliance on Federal disaster relief funds. The guidance can be accessed via the internet at: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pdm/index.shtm>

Each State (including territories) will receive no less than \$500,000 provided the State submits sub-applications for at least that amount that meet all the eligibility requirements of the program as stated in the PDM guidance. All remaining eligible sub-applications will compete nationally for the remaining PDM funds.

There is no limit to the number of applications a jurisdiction can submit during the application period. All eligible sub-applications will be forwarded and reviewed during the National Ranking process. The Technical Review will be conducted after the National Evaluation for the highest scored project sub-applications to ensure cost-effectiveness and engineering feasibility.

The grant guidance for the FY 2008 PDM program provides critical information about eligibility, deadlines, and other key aspects of the program.

Continued on Page 5

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

Continued from Page 4 —

Application Submissions. Applications must be received by FEMA on or before January 31, 2008, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The applications must be received by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer by January 15, 2008, at 11:59 p.m. Central Standard Time. Applicants are required to use the electronics grant (eGrants) system.

Application Assistance. Technical assistance and training will be available for the application process, eGrants system, Benefit-Cost Analysis, technical feasibility of projects, and environmental and historic preservation compliance. FEMA has an online eGrants training course: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS30.asp>

Cost Share. A 25% non-Federal cost share requirement exists for the PDM program. However, the non-Federal cost share requirement is reduced to 10% for small, impoverished communities.

Eligible Sub-applicants. The following entities are eligible to apply for funds:

- Local Communities with a FEMA approved and locally adopted mitigation plan;
- State-level agencies including state institutions (e.g., state hospital or university);
- Federally-recognized Indian tribal governments;
- Public colleges and universities;
- Indian tribal colleges and universities;

Any jurisdiction (tribe, city or county) without a FEMA approved mitigation plan.

If your jurisdiction has a mitigation plan that has been issued "Approvable Pending Adoption" (not yet adopted) status by FEMA, you have time to get the plan adopted, and sent to FEMA for final approval. You can begin the application process, but FEMA will not award you until your plan is approved.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Requirements. Applicants must continue to meet the requirements of the NFIP in order to qualify for PDM grants. These include participation in the NFIP if communities have been identified as having a Special Flood Hazard Area or if a Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM) has been issued. Applicants must not be on probation, suspended, or withdrawn from the NFIP. Sub-applicants not mapped under the NFIP are eligible to apply for grants. Federally-recognized Indian tribal governments, will be eligible to receive PDM planning grants even if they have been issued a FHBM or Flood Insurance Rate Map, and they are not participating in the NFIP. Tribal governments will not be eligible for PDM project grants, however, until they are participating in the NFIP.

Additional Information for Tribal Governments. Tribal Governments can if they wish, apply directly to FEMA for funds. For further Tribal specific information please see: http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/egrants_tribal_fact_sheet.shtm

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions about the PDM program.

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Insurance Outreach Toolkit for Flood Map Updates Now

Last year, Hillsborough County, Florida and FEMA's FloodSmart team partnered to develop outreach materials clearly explaining the flood map modernization process and its flood insurance implications. These materials were created for use in conjunction with the release of the county's preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs). The suite of outreach materials yielded positive results in Hillsborough County, helping community officials inform real estate agents, lenders, builders and surveyors, insurance agents, members of the media and the public about upcoming map changes and their impact on flood insurance.

Incorporating feedback from the use of outreach materials in Hillsborough County, FloodSmart has created template versions of these pieces that can be customized to include local information, messages and statistics. Together, they form a comprehensive toolkit that communities across the country can use to communicate more effectively about map changes in their area and their effect on insurance requirements.

The insurance outreach toolkit is **now available** on FEMA's website at: www.fema.gov/business/nfip/hillsbo1.shtm. A mini-CD version of the toolkit has also been created and will be made available at a number of flood insurance-related conferences and meetings.

When accessing the toolkit, you will note that it is divided into sections to reflect the audiences for whom the various pieces are designed. Templates were created in Microsoft Word to allow individual counties and communities to include information specific to their area. As a helpful point of reference, the toolkit also includes PDF samples showing how each document was used when the preliminary DFIRMs were introduced in Hillsborough County.

This toolkit will be a tremendous resource for communities going through map studies, as they work to educate and inform individuals in their area about the impact of new flood maps. Please use and share this information with your clients and constituents. If you have questions or comments, contact Mary Jo Vrem, FEMA's Project Manager for the FloodSmart NFIP Marketing Campaign (maryjo.vrem@dhs.gov). For up-to-date information on flood insurance, visit www.floodsmart.gov.



U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ACTIVITIES

The Mission of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Water Resources Discipline (WRD), is to provide reliable, impartial, timely information that is needed to understand the Nation's water resources. WRD actively promotes the use of this information by decision makers to: (1) Minimize the loss of life and property as a result of water-related natural hazards, such as floods, droughts, and land movement; (2) Effectively manage ground-water and surface-water resources for domestic, agricultural, commercial, industrial, recreational, and ecological uses; (3) Protect and enhance water resources for human health, aquatic health, and environmental quality; and (4) Contribute to wise physical and economic development of the Nation's resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

As the primary Federal science agency for natural-resources information, the USGS monitors the quantity and quality of water in the Nation's rivers and aquifers, assesses the source and fate of contaminants in aquatic systems, develops tools to improve the application of hydrologic information, and ensures that its information and tools are available to all potential users. The USGS Cooperative Water Program is essential to accomplishing the Water-Resources Mission of the USGS. The Cooperative Water Program is a cost-sharing partnership between the USGS and other agencies at the State, local, and Tribal levels. Through the Cooperative Water Program, the USGS is able to contribute both expertise and resources to those agencies in addressing water-related issues.

Besides collecting and interpreting surface-water, ground-water, water-quality and sediment data, the USGS New Mexico Water Science Center can assist our partner agencies who are engaged in floodplain and emergency management by:

Providing flood-profile analyses of selected river reaches that will identify areas subject to flooding and that could aid local government officials in the assessment and prioritization of where to concentrate efforts to lessen potential flood damages and to protect life and property; Supplementing ongoing FEMA Map Modernization efforts; Providing real-time information related to floods; Providing field reconnaissance and flagging of high-water marks (flood-peak water-surface elevations) along the major streams in affected communities; Assessing the magnitude and recurrence intervals of flooding; Describing meteorological conditions associated with flood events; Providing hydrologic and hydraulic analyses including estimating flood-peak discharges; Assisting in the development of flood-warning systems; Assessing runoff frequency, magnitude, and potential for debris flows associated with wild fires; Monitoring and predicting erosion and sedimentation; Paleo flood analyses to enhance flood recurrence interval analyses; and Providing surface runoff and precipitation intensity data essential for calibrating urban rainfall-runoff models.

Our USGS Water Resources of the United States website can be accessed through <http://water.usgs.gov>. You will see information on Current Streamflow Conditions, Floods and High Flow, Monthly Streamflow, and Ground Water. If you go to <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>, you will have access to water-resources data collected at approximately 1.5 million sites throughout the Nation. You can click on "New Mexico" for Statewide water information, or go to <http://nm.water.usgs.gov>.

If you would like information on participating in our Cooperative Water program, in which USGS can provide up to 50% of the cost of the project (depending on availability of funds), please call Linda S. Weiss, Director, USGS New Mexico Water Science Center, at 505-830-7901.

Linda S. Weiss, Director
USGS New Mexico Water Science Center
5338 Montgomery, NE #400
Albuquerque, NM 87109
505-830-7901
505-620-7603 (cell)



NMFMA OPEN LINE

Dear NMFMA Members,

For a couple of months, the NMFMA Board of Directors have been enjoying an opportunity to chat every Thursday morning. We talk about floodplain management and the NMFMA, and get to know each other better.

The Board invites all members to join in on this chat. The call starts at 7:00 AM and lasts until 8:00 AM. You can call from home or your office, or from your cell phone while you are getting to work (if you use a hands-free system and drive safely). There is no long distance cost to the caller, although it will count against your minutes on a cell phone.

If you have floodplain questions, or if you just want to get to know other floodplain managers, give it a try. The phone number is 888-296-6500 and the "Guest Code" is 309284. We hope to hear from you on Thursday.

Leslie A. Bond, CFM
PO Box 427
High Rolls, NM 88325
505-682-1359
lbond at labond dot com



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear NMFMA Members and Friends:

Where has the time gone? Here it is December and we only have %\$#* shopping days 'til Christmas. Don't ya just hate hearing how many days you have left to shop? Or how about the guy that announce in July, "I have all my Christmas shopping done?" I swear every year I am not going to wait until the last minute to do my shopping. But every year I wait until the last minute to do it all. I run around trying to figure out what everyone wants for Christmas; what size is Uncle Fred; did I get a present for everyone; when am I going to have time to address Christmas Cards; and on and on.

What we need to do is just STOP and sit down to reflect on what the season is all about. It is not about giving presents, or fixing the biggest Christmas dinner ever, or making sure that everyone has a present. It is remembering that we all have a lot to be thankful for. We should bring family and friends together to hug and laugh and remember the good times and bad times, and those that are not with us any longer. It is time to share your wealth of home, food, and family with those that do not have anything. It is also a time to remember those men and women that are fighting for us, so that we do have home, family and *freedom*.

I want to take this time to thank NMFMA and every member of NMFMA for allowing me to speak my mind, edit & produce the NMFMA newsletter and for just being my friends. I wish you and your family, friends and extending family, the best of the Season. Remember to tell those you love, that you do love them. And remember most of all that GOD loves you.

Diane Calhoun, CFM
M. Baker Jr., Inc.
Denton, Texas



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR

2008 SPRING CONFERENCE IN SANTA FE

Santa Fe New Mexico, the City Different..... a world-renowned travel destination unparalleled in richness of history, heritage, arts and culture. You'll be nestled in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the foothills of the Rockies, immersed in natural beauty, with an average of 300 days of sunshine and blue sky. Come and prepare for your perfect day in Santa Fe.

What a wonderful place to spend a week and hold a NMFMA Conference. Why not bring your spouse and/or family along. You ask, "what would they do all day while you're in the conference." Good question. We need some feedback from the Membership. If we planned a spouse/family outing, what would you like to see? Museums, Art Galleries, shopping malls, outlet shopping mall, casinos, winery,? We need your feedback, if we offered a day trip, would your spouse and/or family participate? If so, what would you like to see? If so, would you be willing to pay for the expense of van and/or bus and driver? It wouldn't be much.

Suggestions, comments and any other words of wisdom need to be given to Mike Czosnek ASAP so arrangements can be planned and confirmed. Emails would be the way to communicate with Mike. Contact information in box below.



Mike Czosnek
City of Socorro
Conference Committee Chair
Email: mczosnek@socorronm.gov
Phone: 505-838-7514



~ LEVEE SAFETY SUMMIT ~**National Flood Risk Management****~ LEVEE SAFETY SUMMIT ~****Feb. 26-27, 2008****St. Louis, Missouri**

The premier national organizations for flood risk management, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA), have been working jointly with FEMA and the Corps for over two years to address the nexus of issues concerning the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) floodplain map modernization program and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) flood risk management programs.

In August of 2005, just days before the onslaught of Hurricane Katrina, NAFSMA and ASFPM representatives met with key officials of USACE, the Department of the Army, and FEMA's Mitigation Directorate to discuss critical levee policy issues that both agencies needed to be addressing. The dire need for a national inventory of levees and the development of a shared certification process for levees were key topics during this initial discussion. Members of both Associations and the federal officials who participated were concerned about how the FEMA and USACE programs could be better coordinated, particularly those dealing with levees.

One result of these discussions was ASFPM and NAFSMA jointly sponsoring a National Flood Risk Management Policy Summit last December in Queenstown, MD, with the goal of bringing together key leaders from numerous national organizations interested in national flood risk management policy. From this summit ASFPM and NAFSMA developed a set of joint flood risk management policy recommendations which were provided to FEMA and USACE, Summit participants, and other pertinent entities last spring. A follow-on briefing was held in September 2007 in Washington by the two organizations to further inform congressional staff, participants, and others on the status of these policy recommendations.

Much progress has been made since discussions were initiated in August 2005. Both the USACE and FEMA have moved forward with guidance and policies addressing levee certification issues. The recently passed Water Resources Development Act requires establishing a National Levee Safety Committee charged with developing the nation's first comprehensive levee safety program.

NAFSMA and ASFPM now believe it is time to convene a "National Flood Risk Management – Levee Safety Summit" to seek input from across the U.S. This Summit will be held February 27-28, 2008, at the Adams Mark Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri, because it is centrally located and certainly no stranger to levee issues, especially following the vast Midwest floods in 1993. A basic two-day program will provide information updates followed by several targeted discussion sessions where participants will provide feedback to help shape and guide the future direction of flood risk management in the nation. Additional special half-day training sessions and technical field tours will be offered on Monday and Thursday for those who desire more intense, hands-on exposure to issues.

Hotel reservations can be made now by calling 1-800-444-ADAM, be sure to mention "Levee Summit" to get the special rate. Please see www.floods.org/leveesafety for program agenda, registration forms, and hotel information, or call ASFPM at 608-274-0123.



New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association Application for Membership

Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip code:** _____
Email _____
Telephone: () _____ **Fax** () _____

- Affiliation:**
- Local Government
 - State Government
 - Federal Government
 - Private
 - Academic
 - Other _____

Nature of Duties

- Administration
- Engineering
- Planning
- Insurance
- Other _____

I am interested in the following areas of concern:	
Dam Safety	_____
Flood Data	_____
Structural Flood Control	_____
Litigation/Legal Issues	_____
Wetlands Issues	_____
AO/AH Flooding	_____
Crawl Spaces	_____
Flood Warning & Response	_____
Other:	_____

Membership Class Applied for & Dues

- Individual \$ 35.00
- Agency \$100.00
- Corporate \$100.00
- NEW MEMBER
- RENEWAL

DUES ARE FOR ONE CALENDAR YEAR.

MAKE CHECK OUT TO NMFMA

Send to: NMFMA
Executive Office
P.O. Box 531
High Rolls, New Mexico 88325

I am interested in these Committees:	
_____	Certification
_____	Conference
_____	Floodplain Management
_____	Legislative
_____	Membership
_____	Nominating
_____	Training/Education
_____	Technical
_____	Ways and Means

*A Publication of the New Mexico
Floodplain Managers Association*



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505-682-1359

WEB SITE:
WWW.NMFMA.ORG

Purpose of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers

- 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 individuals concerned with proper floodplain management and to encourage the exchange of ideas;**
- 4. To keep individuals concerned with proper floodplain management well informed through educational 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.**

To accomplish the purpose of NMFMA, meetings and conferences are conducted, distribution of a quarterly newsletter. In addition, NMFMA also works with the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Home Lane Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency and others.