



# NEW MEXICO HIGH WATERS

*A Publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association*

Volume 13 Issue 4

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## FROM THE CHAIR

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### Mike Rudloff, CFM Chair

Before it slips my mind, which is easy to do nowadays, I wish everyone a safe and blessed holiday season. It is hard to believe that 2006 is winding down with 2007 fast approaching. I appreciate the support received from the NMFMA Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Executive Director and the General Membership to keep our association moving in a positive direction.

The website redesign and maintenance RFP was awarded to Innovative Design located in Las Cruces. We are awaiting the execution of a contract so we can proceed. A Website Design and Maintenance Committee was formed during the Fall Conference in Carlsbad with Kyle Zimmerman, CFM serving as the Committee Chair. To keep things orderly, all inclusions to the website will be required to go through the committee before information is passed on to the webmaster. To keep things running smoothly, Les Bond has agreed to serve as webmaster through the transition period.

The Fall Conference in Carlsbad was a huge success with the exception of the natural light situation where it was hard to see the screen. The speakers were

excellent and Georgia Goad did an outstanding job serving as Conference Director. My hat goes off to everyone who attended and/or assisted to make this one of the better conferences to date.

The Spring 2007 Conference, originally scheduled to be held in the Albuquerque area, has been changed and will now be held in Socorro. Conference dates are April 11, 12, 13, 2007. Conference Hotel will be the Best Western (formerly the Holiday Inn Express). Conference rates and more information on the agenda items will be published in the next newsletter. Scheduling for the Spring Conference is the hands of Les Bond and Mike Czosnek. More information to come.

Please remember the new nominating and election procedures. Please get those nominations in to our Nominating Committee Chair, Mike Czosnek. If there is something you think needs to be addressed, please contact me or a Board member to find out how you can get involved.

Again, I wish everyone a blessed and safe holiday season.



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**NEW MEXICO  
CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS**

Grant Pinkerton, CFM

Chair, Certification Committee

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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 the State Statute.

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 to 12:00. The conference begins at 1:00 on Wednesday.

The NMFMA web site, [www.nmfma.org](http://www.nmfma.org), has 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](http://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.

Congratulations to our new Certified Floodplain Managers who passed the exam in Carlsbad at the NMFMA Fall Conference:

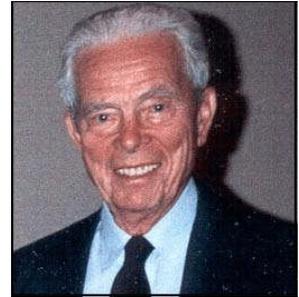
Randall Carroll, City of Rio Rancho  
Steven Dunigan, City of Ruidoso Downs  
Warren Hardin, City of Carlsbad  
Michael Márquez, Valencia County  
Kristina Ortiz, City of Bayard  
Eugene Pettes, City of Rio Rancho  
Frederick Seifts, City of Jal  
Frank Sherman, Valencia County  
Bradley Stebleton, Sandoval County

There are currently 130 Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) in our state.



## Gilbert F. White 1911–2006

*The father of floodplain management, Gilbert Fowler White, died on October 5 at his home overlooking Boulder Creek in Boulder, Colorado*



White, the Gustavson Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of Colorado since 1980, was a widely known and much-loved figure in geography, public policy, floodplain management, water resources, and environmental initiatives worldwide.

Born November 26, 1911 in Hyde Park, Illinois, White reportedly became interested in human-environment interaction during summers spent at a family ranch in Wyoming. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Chicago, and his 1942 doctoral dissertation, *Human Adjustment to Floods*, has been called the most influential ever written by an American geographer. "Floods are 'acts of God,'" he wrote, "but flood losses are largely acts of man."

Throughout his career, White championed the sound, comprehensive management of floodplains and the adoption of a broad range of adjustments to floods. He advocated adaptation to or accommodation of flood hazards rather than the structural flood control measures that dominated federal policy in the early 20th century.

He was instrumental in the investigations and reports that preceded the passage of the 1968 National Flood Insurance Act, and maintained a vigilant watch on the unfolding of the massive, multilayered framework of flood loss reduction, insurance, and mitigation actions that sprang from that Act.

In the 1970s he foresaw the critical role that state governments could play in floodplain management and lent his guidance and support to the fledgling Association of State Floodplain Managers, participating in its activities whenever possible and offering criticism as well as praise for its efforts. "Over the years," ASFPM Executive Larry Larson says, "Gilbert was a guiding force for all of the Association's missions. His vision for wise use of floodplains and his persistence in working toward that—and his insistence that all the rest of us do so, too—was absolutely invaluable."

In 1985, the ASFPM named in White's honor what was to become its most prestigious award. The Goddard-White Award has been conferred to just 17 individuals since then, in recognition of exemplary achievements towards sensible floodplain management in the vein contemplated by White.

White was an inaugural trustee of the ASFPM Foundation, established in 1996 as an incubator for research and education that promotes wise floodplain management. The Foundation sponsors the Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum, which periodically convenes the field's scientists and experts to consider and explore pressing policy issues.

Less well-known to floodplain managers were White's major contributions to the study of water systems in developing countries, the management and preservation of arid lands, global environmental change, international cooperation on water resources issues in such areas as the Mekong Delta and the Middle East, nuclear winter, geography education, the management of nuclear waste, and the mitigation of a wide range of natural hazards.

White was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 2000, he was presented the National Medal of Science by President William J. Clinton. He received dozens of awards and honors and was the author of hundreds of papers, articles, reports, and books.

White's long and productive life is ably chronicled in *Living with Nature's Extremes*, by Robert E. Hinshaw, published this past spring by Johnson Books. Copies can be obtained through the ASFPM at [http://www.floods.org/TheOrganization/GFW\\_Bio.asp](http://www.floods.org/TheOrganization/GFW_Bio.asp).

White is survived by his second wife, Claire Sheridan; by his children William White of Ithaca, New York; Mary White of Boulder, Colorado; and Frances Chapin of Edmonds, Washington; stepchildren Monika Profitt of Seattle and Daniel Profitt of Boulder, Colorado; and four grandchildren. His first wife, Anne Elizabeth Underwood, died in 1989.

*Donations may be made in White's memory to the ASFPM Foundation for a special memorial fund for continuing work on flood policy through [http://www.floods.org/Foundation/Files/ASFPM\\_Fndtn\\_Pledge\\_Form.pdf](http://www.floods.org/Foundation/Files/ASFPM_Fndtn_Pledge_Form.pdf). Donations also may be made to the CU Foundation at the University of Colorado for the Gilbert F. White Graduate Fellowship Endowment via [diane.smith@colorado.edu](mailto:diane.smith@colorado.edu).*

# QUESTIONNAIRE

## From the Training and Education Committee

**TO: All members of the NM Floodplain Managers Association (NMFMA)**  
**FROM: Training and Education Committee (T&E)**

**RE: Request to obtain suggestions on Training and Education topics or ideas.**

**Purpose** - The T&E committee needs your input so we may summarize your requests to the NMFMA Board, so that they may appropriate resources to provide training and education per the member's request.  
**Response Time** – We must have your results back by **January 17<sup>th</sup> 2007** so that we may present a summary to the Board by January 31<sup>st</sup> so there time to implement some of the suggestions by the Spring 2007 conference.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_ work tele. \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL QUESTIONS** 1 = least , 5= most

- Do you want less technical or more technical presentations?.....
- Do you want 1 field trip per conference?.....
- What town or City would you be willing to be the host and conference director for a spring or fall conference?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Is there a training class you have experience in that you would like to lead? If yes, list topic here?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Do you know someone that may that may be willing to lead a training class? If so, list their name, affiliation and topic.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**TRAINING and EDUCATION QUESTIONS** 1 = least , 5 = most

- Do you want basic hydrology training?.....
- Do you want basic hydraulic training?.....
- Do you want basic Geographic Information System (GIS) training.....
- Do you want a refresher course in FEMA Regulations?.....
- Do you want training to understand FIRM Maps?.....
- Do you want training on Elevation Certificates?.....
- Do you want help understanding flood profiles in FIS Study Reports?.....
- Do you want help understanding the Community Rating System (CRS).....
- Do you want to see videos of flooding either in NM or anywhere else?.....
- Would you be willing to be a presenter at a conference – is so, list the topic you would like to present  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a specific topic(s) you would like training on – if so list here?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have ideas for training or education opportunities for the general public – if so ,list here?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN completed form by January 17th, 2007 to:**

Michele Truby, CFM  
San Juan County Office of Emergency Management  
209 South Oliver Drive  
Aztec, NM 87410

Email: mtruby@sjcounty.net  
Telephone (505) 334-1180  
Fax (505) 334-3239



## U.S. CITIES TAKING CHANCES

From the ASFPM News and Views, October 2006

As part of its annual Sustainable U.S. City Ranking, SustainLane.com, a resource for healthy and sustainable living, measured the natural disaster risk to America's 50 largest cities. The ranking was devised based on primary research by Sustain Lane and on information from Risk Management Solutions (<http://www.rms.com/>). It considered hurricanes, major flooding, catastrophic hail, tornado super-outbreaks, and earthquakes and looked at potential frequency of disasters as well as the projected extent of damage. Miami, Florida, was rated the riskiest U.S. city and Mesa, Arizona, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, tied for the least risky of the 50 largest U.S. cities.

Based on these criteria, Miami, Florida's site on a peninsula between two prolific hurricane zones made it the city with the greatest risk. New Orleans is next, followed by Oakland, California, which straddles the Hayward Earthquake Fault; San Francisco, which lies on the San Andreas Fault and is also at risk for tsunamis; Honolulu, subject to hurricanes, storm surge flooding, and tsunamis; and San Jose, California, which is also near the San Andreas Fault.

Some of the largest U.S. cities are much less likely to be affected by such natural disasters. Leading the pack for safe cities when considering such scenarios are Mesa, Arizona, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, both of which are least likely to face hurricanes, earthquakes, catastrophic hail, or tornado super-outbreaks, because they lack conditions needed to create these disasters. Catastrophic flooding is also not as likely. Other major U.S. cities ranking high for safety from natural disaster risk include Cleveland, Ohio; El Paso, Texas; and Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona.

It is instructive to compare the level of risk to another set of city rankings on the same website, "quality of life combined with indicators of sustainability programs, policies and performance." For example, two of the highest-risk cities (Oakland and San Francisco) nevertheless were given high marks for sustainability. Houston, on the other hand, also a high-risk city, was termed "sustainability endangered." At the other end of the scale, Detroit and Albuquerque, considered among the safest in the first ranking, were termed "sustainability laggards."

The website on which the results are reported also features frank comments on the rankings, the methods used to make them, and discussion about rebuilding in New Orleans, see <http://sustainlane.com/page/89/1/Press+Release+&gt;+SustainLane.com+Measures+Natural+Disaster+Risk+for+U.S.+Cities.html>.

### Risk from Natural Disasters: 50 Largest U.S. Cities

(#50 is riskiest, #1 is safest; numbers repeated due to ties)

50. Miami, FL
49. New Orleans, LA
48. Oakland, CA
47. San Francisco, CA
46. Honolulu, HI
45. San Jose, CA
43. Los Angeles, CA
43. Houston, TX
42. Long Beach, CA
39. Tulsa, OK
39. Oklahoma City, OK
39. Columbus, OH
38. Sacramento, CA
35. Virginia Beach, VA
35. Seattle, WA
35. Memphis, TN
32. New York, NY
32. Jacksonville, FL
32. Boston, MA
31. San Diego, CA
30. Portland, OR
29. Charlotte, NC
28. Baltimore, MD
27. Washington, DC
26. Louisville, KY
25. Indianapolis, IN
22. Fort Worth, TX
22. Dallas, TX
22. Arlington, TX
21. Kansas City, MO
20. Austin, TX
19. Omaha, NE
18. Atlanta, GA
17. Nashville, TN
16. San Antonio, TX
15. Las Vegas, NV
14. Albuquerque, NM
13. Denver, CO
12. Chicago, IL
8. Philadelphia, PA
8. Minneapolis, MN
8. Fresno, CA
8. Detroit, MI
7. Colorado Springs, CO
3. Tucson, AZ
3. Phoenix, AZ
3. El Paso, TX
3. Cleveland, OH
1. Milwaukee, WI
1. Mesa, AZ

## NM Manufactured Housing Division

### Grant Pinkerton, CFM Floodplain Management Committee

The Floodplain Management Committee sent a letter to the Director of the New Mexico Manufactured Housing Division (MHD) asking for a change in MHD regulations that would require a local floodplain manager's signature on MH permits prior to their issuance and for the name of a contact person at MHD that we could discuss this issue with. Some time later Les Bond, Chair of the Floodplain Management Committee, was contacted by the Acting Director of MHD. The Director offered to put NMFMA on the agenda for the Manufactured Housing Committee (MHC) which would have a meeting in Las Cruces on October 24, 2006.

I attended a town meeting for public input held by MHD on Monday, October 23 and also spoke to the MHC at their meeting on Tuesday. At the Tuesday Committee meeting I explained that our main goal as local floodplain managers is to make sure that all development in flood hazard areas is as safe as possible from damage to property and loss of life due to flooding. However, in many areas around the State, manufactured homes (MHs) are being installed without any involvement by local floodplain managers. I gave them a packet containing my presentation, some photos from Michelle Truby, Floodplain Manager for San Juan County, of MHs that were placed in flood hazard areas along the Animas River. In addition I provided a copy of the NMFMA Resolution R-06-1 which resolves that MHD should not issue any MH permits until they have been reviewed by a local floodplain manager. We also suggested new language for incorporation into the MHD Rules that would require dealers to have a written statement from the local governing body stating the flood requirement prior to placing any MH in a community.

The committee members seemed interested in the amendments that we proposed. They mentioned that they have been more aware of the problems associated with flooding lately, since the flood events in the state have happened, and felt that protecting MH owners from floods was an important is-

sue. Since most of the members are from the MH sales business, they always have in mind the effect any regulations are going to have on MH dealers, installers, etc. One of their concerns is how this change would affect the time element of selling a MH. They seemed somewhat eased when I told them that our process in Chaves County took only 1 day.

After the meeting I had a good discussion with the Bureau Chief and head inspector. He thinks that we should include "installers" in the new language that we are proposing so all the players involved in the MH placement will be required to get the local FPM signature. I have sent revised language to the Director so it will be included in their next meeting agenda.

All in all, I think we were received well and the Committee was interested in doing something about helping to prevent damage from flooding. Floodplain managers need to be involved before MHs are placed and I think MHD recognizes this. We will be at their next meeting when they consider for a vote our proposed language.



## Hazards U.S. Multi-Hazard (HAZUS-MH)

New Mexico is offering a unique opportunity through the Earth Data Analysis Center (EDAC), University of New Mexico to use HAZUS, a modeling tool for estimating potential losses from disasters. EDAC will provide technical support and/or run HAZUS for government officials within the State of New Mexico. Emergency Managers and Floodplain Administrators can do a retrospective analysis and play an important part with data from the Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1659-DR-NM. The agency or jurisdiction requesting the HAZUS run will need to provide the flood data for the module. For those of you in New Mexico interested in HAZUS contact Shirley Baros via email [sbaros@edac.unm.edu](mailto:sbaros@edac.unm.edu) or by telephone at 505.277.3622 x237.

Below is a brief synopsis taken directly from the FEMA website ([http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/hazus/hz\\_overview.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/hazus/hz_overview.shtm))

### HAZUS-MH Overview

The **Hazards U.S. Multi-Hazard (HAZUS-MH)**, is a nationally applicable standardized methodology and software program that estimates potential losses from [earthquakes](#), [floods](#), and [hurricane winds](#). HAZUS-MH was developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under contract with the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS).

HAZUS-MH uses state-of-the-art geographic information system software to [map and display hazard data](#) and the results of damage and economic loss estimates for buildings and infrastructure. It also allows users to estimate the impacts of earthquakes, floods, and hurricane winds on populations.

Estimating losses is essential to decision-making at all levels of government, providing a basis for developing mitigation plans and policies, emergency preparedness, and response and recovery planning.

The latest release, HAZUS-MH MR2, is an updated version of HAZUS-MH that incorporates many new features which improve both the speed and functionality of the models. For information on software and hardware requirements to run HAZUS-MH MR2, see HAZUS-MH [Hardware and Software Requirements](#).

### Order HAZUS-MH MR2

Contact:  
FEMA Distribution Center  
P.O. Box 2012  
Jessup, Md. 20794-2012.  
Phone: 1-800-480-2520



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Les Bond, CFM Executive Director

I just have a few words about the October conference in Carlsbad. IT WAS GREAT!

Well maybe a few more words ...

Chair Mike Rudloff, CFM, City of Deming, put a terrific program together. At the beginning of the conference, I heard some members complaining that they really were not interested in dam safety. I think they had all changed their minds by the end of the conference. We learned a lot about dam safety problems, how they affect us as floodplain managers and how they affect our communities.

If you've never been to the Carlsbad Conference Center on the Pecos River, you have really missed a special place. All of the arrangements were made by Georgia Goad, CFM, Eddy County, and they were terrific.

Thanks to Mike and Georgia for a good conference and a good time.

## Guidelines for Identifying Provisional Accredited Levees (PAL)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued Procedure Memorandum No. 43 (PM 43), *Guidelines for Identifying Provisionally Accredited Levees*, on September 26, 2006. PM 43 provides guidance on showing flood hazards for areas behind levees on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and clarifies procedures and timelines for levee documentation.

On August 22, 2005, FEMA reiterated its commitment to consider levee construction, strength, ongoing maintenance and other factors during the agency's ongoing flood mapping modernization efforts. In 1986, through Section 65.10 of Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, FEMA was directed to review levee accreditation criteria, determine the risk of flooding behind levees, and depict these flood risks on flood hazard maps.

"When levees fail, they fail catastrophically. The flooding may be much more intense and damaging than if the levee was not there," said David Maurstad, FEMA's Mitigation Director and Federal Insurance Administrator. "No levee system will provide full protection from floods. Levees are designed to provide a specific level of protection, and they can be overtopped in larger flood events. People need to be aware of the risks they face living behind levees - including levees credited as providing protection from the one percent annual chance flood."

Many of the nation's levees were first put in place by farmers to protect agricultural areas from frequent flooding. They date back as much as 150 years. But in that time, land use has changed and development has taken place where these farms were once located. And levees can decay over time. Accurate mapping of the risks of flooding behind levees depends on knowing the condition and level of protection the levees actually provide.

FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are working together to make sure that flood hazard maps clearly reflect the flood protection capabilities of levees, and that the maps accurately represent the flood risks posed to areas situated behind them. Levee owners - usually States, communities, or in some cases private individuals or organizations - are responsible for assuring that the levees they own are maintained to their design. In order to be considered creditable flood protection structures on FEMA's flood maps, levee owners must provide documentation to show that the levee meets design, operation and maintenance standards for protection against the "one-percent-annual chance" flood.

If the levee meets the criteria, the map will show the area behind the levee as protected from the one-percent-annual chance flood and mapped as a moderate risk zone. But if it does not, the map will show the area as a high-risk zone, or Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), and most mortgage holders within that area will be required to purchase flood insurance.

Based on feedback from numerous communities, states and other stakeholders, FEMA learned that it may be difficult for levee owners to produce the required information because documentation is not always immediately available and, in some cases, additional assessment may be required. Inability to provide full documentation immediately does not mean that the levee no longer provides the level of protection to which it was designed. But neither does it mean that flood hazard maps can fully credit the levee with providing protection against the one-percent-annual-chance flood.

FEMA announced that it clarified procedures and timelines for levee documentation, while keeping the map modernization effort on track. For eligible levees, levee owners have 24 months to gather information on the extent to which a levee meets current flood protection standards. In the interim, areas behind the levee are mapped as moderate risk areas, and the levee itself is noted to be a Provisionally Accredited Levee.



Levees - Continued on Page 9

## SPRING CONFERENCE APRIL 10 thru 13, 2007 SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO

Just in case you missed it on the front page of this newsletter. The Spring 2007 Conference is going to be held in Socorro, not Albuquerque as previously announced. So get ready for a good one. Mike Czosnek, CFM and Les Bond, CFM are working on arrangements. Conference will be held at the Best Western (formerly the Holiday Express).



More information and details on the agenda will be posted in next newsletter. Mark your calendars for April 10 for the Early Sessions and conference on 11, 12, 13, 2007.

### LEVEES Continued from Page 8

The new guidance accommodates the needs of local officials, levee owners and the public - while still acknowledging and communicating flood risks," Maurstad said. "It provides a realistic timeline for levee documentation and at the same time alerts the public to the levees' provisional status and associated risks. The clarification provides a sound mechanism for dealing with levees under review. And it clearly indicates the continuing risk. A note on the map will explain that the levee is only provisionally - temporarily - accredited. And all flood hazard maps contain a note for areas behind levees pointing out that levees can be overtopped and strongly encouraging flood insurance protection and adherence to evacuation procedures."

The flood map modernization initiative is a five-year, \$1 billion effort to modernize and digitize the nation's flood hazard maps. Communities use this information for land-use planning, floodplain management, and flood insurance rating purposes. The current goal is to map the areas where 92 percent of America's population lives, covering 65 percent of the land area in the United States. The focus is on improving the flood hazard data level of detail in communities at greatest flood risk. The maps provide reliable, up-to-date flood data, using the latest mapping technology. The maps indicate areas at high risk of flooding, known as special flood hazard areas, as well as areas at low to moderate risk. In special flood hazard areas, flood insurance is a requirement for federally backed mortgages.

To learn more, visit: [www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/lv\\_intro.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/lv_intro.shtm).

## From the Editor

### SURVIOR - TEXAS-STYLE

Due to the popularity of the "Survivor" shows, Texas is planning to do one entitled, "Survivor Texas-Style."

The contestants will all start in Dallas, then drive to Waco, Austin, San Antonio, over to Houston and down to Brownsville. They will then proceed up to Del Rio, El Paso, Midland, Odessa, Lubbock and Amarillo. From there they will go on to Abilene, Fort Worth and finally back to Dallas.

Each will be driving a pink Volvo with bumper stickers that read: "I'm Gay"; "I Love the Dixie Chicks"; "Boycott Beef"; "I voted for John Kerry"; "George Strait Sucks"; "Hillary in 2008"; and "I'm here to confiscate your guns."

The first one to make it back to Dallas alive wins.

Diane Calhoun, CFM  
Phone: 940-783-4123

**Baker**



## Floodplain Management Committee Report

**Les Bond, CFM**

### **Chair, Floodplain Management Committee**

The Floodplain Management Committee has been having monthly teleconference meetings. We also met in Carlsbad during the Fall Conference. Our objectives this year (by April 2007) are to start working to eliminate problems related to permits issued by CID and MHD without floodplain review by NFIP communities, to find out what is being done to ensure that State buildings are compliant, and to help non-NFIP communities join the NFIP and become fully compliant with our statutes.

Since August, we have sent letters to CID, MHD and other State agencies. We have had some responses, but these responses were not entirely satisfactory. To date, we have requested that CID and MHD stop issuing permits in communities with identified flood hazards that do not participate in the NFIP, and in communities with no Certified Floodplain Managers. This issue is to be on the agenda for the next Manufactured Housing Committee meeting. We are awaiting a response from CID. Since CID says they are also responsible for permitting State buildings, their compliance with our request will also address that issue.

Also, committee member Mike Czosnek, CFM, City of Socorro, met with Socorro County, a non-NFIP community, and with Bill Borthwick, CFM, DPS to encourage the County to join the NFIP. We do not yet know the results of this meeting.

The Committee wishes to thank Grant Pinkerton, CFM, Chaves County, for attending the Manufactured Housing Committee meeting in Las Cruces October 24 and making a presentation for the Committee (see related article).

Next year (April 2007 – 2008), we will continue to work with MHD and CID as necessary. We also plan to address the issues of water well permits (Office of the State Engineer) and septic tank and sewage plant permits (Department of Environment) in floodplains. Community floodplain regulations state that water and sewage systems will be protected from flood damage.

We have a strong Committee, but we welcome additional members and ideas. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at [lbond@labond.com](mailto:lbond@labond.com). If you have problems that might be addressed by this committee, please let me know, and the Committee will consider it in our Goals and Objectives.

**ESTA LLOVIENDO CULEBRAS Y CUBEROS**

## NEW MEXICO RESIDENTS URGED TO PREPARE NOW FOR WINTER FLOODING

While spring and summer months typically bring wet, soggy weather to many regions of the U.S., it is winter storms and the precipitation they bring which can wreak havoc on communities nationwide. For a number of states, especially those west of the Mississippi River, winter months produce the majority of annual rainfall.

Flash flooding is New Mexico's greatest weather hazard, second only to lightning strikes. And, while the majority of New Mexico's The winter rainy season lasts from November through March. Homeowners, business owners and renters – even in arid regions – need to know how they can prepare for severe winter rain and floods. Flood insurance backed by the National Flood Insurance Program offers the best protection available against floods and mudflows, which, historically, occur swiftly and without warning.

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From November 2005 through April 2006, U.S. homeowners, business owners and renters filed more than 4,000 flood insurance claims and received more than \$122.8 million in flood insurance claims. This year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts an El Niño will affect weather patterns in the U.S. until Spring 2007, causing wetter-than-average conditions across much of the Southwest.

FEMA offers the following tips to prepare for winter flooding:

### **Before the Storm**

- Have a safety kit with drinking water, a first-aid kit, canned food, a radio, a flashlight, and blankets.
  - Know safe routes from home, work, and school that are on higher ground.
- Protect your property. Make sure that your flood insurance policy is up to date.

### **During the Storm**

- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc.
- Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams.

Roadbeds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.

### **After the Storm**

- Do not turn electricity back on in your home if you smell gas or if the electrical system has been flooded.
  - Clean and disinfect everything that was touched by floodwaters or mudflows and throw out any such foodstuffs.
- Follow directions from local officials regarding the safety of drinking water.

There are only around 14,450 flood insurance policies in force in New Mexico; and FEMA not only urges these policyholders to renew their policy, but encourages all business owners and residents to consider financially protecting themselves by purchasing a policy. Flood insurance is available through nearly 100 insurance companies in more than 21,000 participating communities nationwide. Everyone can purchase flood insurance – renters, business owners, and homeowners. The average flood insurance policy is around \$500 a year. And in low- to moderate-risk areas, lower-cost Preferred Risk Policies (PRPs) start at just \$112 a year.

Individuals can learn more about their flood risk and how to protect their property by visiting: [FloodSmart.gov](http://FloodSmart.gov) or by calling 1-800-427-2419.



**TO ALL NMFMA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
&  
BLESSED NEW YEAR**

**FROM**

**THE**

**NMFMA EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

**AND**

**THE NMFMA BOARD**





## 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*



Executive Office  
P. O. Box 531  
High Rolls, New Mexico 88325  
1-877-682-1389

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**WEB SITE:**  
**WWW.NMFMA.ORG**

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## **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.**

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