



NEW MEXICO HIGH WATERS

A Publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association

Volume 18 Issue 2

June 2008

FALL CONFERENCE ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO

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Mark your calendars now for September 9th through 12th, for the Fall Conference. It will be held in the City of Alamogordo. We will have a line up of great speakers and opportunities for training. If you are entertaining the idea of taking the CFM Exam, please reference page 2 of the newsletter. If you are interested in making a presentation at the conference, please contact Mike Czosnek at (505) 835-0240.

More information about the conference hotel, contact information, and registration cost will follow in the next newsletter, August 1, 2008.

Stay tuned for more information. Plan to attend the NMFMA Fall Conference in beautiful downtown Alamogordo, New Mexico.



Alamogordo, The Friendliest Place on Earth

The New Mexico High Waters is published through the assistance provided by the Department of Home Land Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Community Assistance Program-State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The contents of this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Federal Government.

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NEW MEXICO
CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS

Grant Pinkerton, CFM
Chair, Certification Committee
(505) 624-6562

The CFM exam was proctored at the Spring 2008 NMFMA conference in Santa Fe. Congratulations to the following NM CFMs:

Joe Catanach	Santa Fe County
Rusty Tambascio	Santa Fe Eng Consultants
Vicki Lucero	Santa Fe County
Jeffrey Irving	City of Gallup
Curtis Cherne	City of Albuquerque
Felicia Luna	Town of Estancia
Shawn Fort	Village of Ruidoso
Eric Nemeth	URS, Albuquerque
Susan Phillips	Village of Ruidoso
Sean O'Melveny	URS, Albuquerque
Gilbert Garcia	City of Las Vegas
Manuel Pacheco	Town of Taos
Michael Gomez	Santa Fe Eng Consultants
Tom Engel	Smith Eng, Durango, CO
Paul Saavedra	Santa Fe Eng Consultants

There are now 159 active CFMs certified by the NM certification program

Don't forget that the CFM exam is proctored at every NMFMA conference. **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 been conducted by MAP6 FEMA Region VI and New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NMDHSEM):

Cibola County, New Mexico	April 28, 2008
Grant County, New Mexico	April 29, 2008
Luna County, New Mexico	April 29, 2008
Lincoln County, New Mexico	April 30, 2008
Roosevelt County, New Mexico	May 1, 2008
Colfax County, New Mexico	May 2, 2008
Taos County, New Mexico	May 2, 2008

The following Community Assistance Visits (CAVS) have been accomplished for FY 2008:

Chaves County, New Mexico	April 22-23, 2008
Town of Dexter, New Mexico	April 22-23, 2008
Sandoval County, New Mexico	May 6-7, 2008;
City of Alamogordo, New Mexico	June 3-4, 2008;
Otero County, New Mexico	June 5-6, 2008.

The State Floodplain Coordinator would like to thank the following floodplain Administrators, Grant Pinkerton, CFM, Kelly Romero, CFM and Brad Stebelton, CFM, Dean Hunt, CFM, and Stephen Dutil, CFM for their hard work in preparing for these CAVS.

The following communities are scheduled for CAVs:

The Village of Reserve, New Mexico is scheduled	June 17-18, 2008
Town of Silver City, New Mexico	June 19-20, 2008
Town of Taos, New Mexico	June 24-25, 2008
Taos County, New Mexico	June 26-27, 2008
City of Santa Fe, New Mexico	July 21-23, 2008
Santa Fe County, New Mexico	July 24-25, 2008

Good news was announced by Tim Manning, Director New Mexico Department of Homeland Security (NMDHSEM) at the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association (NMFMA) Spring Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. NMDHSEM the coordinating state agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will initiate a State Flood Forum. NMDHSEM Preparedness Bureau hopes to bring together the State Agencies who have an impact on floodplain management programs. The good news is Kyle Zimmerman, CFM, NMFMA Chair and three local floodplain administrators will be asked to serve on a State Flood Policy Council (SFPC). The SFPC will consist of the following stakeholders: Earth Data Analysis Center (EDAC). New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT); New Mexico Environment Department (NMED); Construction Industries Division (CID and Mobile Home Division (MHD) Office State Engineers (OSE) Dam Safety Bureau; Office Superintendent of Insurance.

The scope of work is to bring about a broad and unified effort in ensuring future use and development of the State identified flood hazard areas are analyzed and acted on in a manner to lesson the risk of flood losses.

Correction Bill Borthwick mailing address:

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, New Mexico 87508

Phone No.	(505) 476-9617
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SPRING CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Wendy Blackwell, CFM
Spring Conference Chair
505-955-6127

As you all know, the Spring Conference was held April 8th through 11th in Santa Fe. We had the highest attendance ever! We had originally planned for 120 attendees and ended up with just over 150 by the end of the Conference.

Pre-conference workshops were well attended, allowing floodplain managers from around the state to learn more detail about specific topics and to earn additional CECs. Workshop sessions included Basic Floodplain Management, Intermediate Floodplain Management, Hydrology/Hydraulics for Non-Engineers, and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan 'Tips and Tools'.

The formal Conference included presentations from more than 30 speakers from the public sector, private sector and non-profit world. Session topics included Map Modernization, Letters of Map Change, Compliance with the NFIP, Agency Up-dates and Activities in the Santa Fe River Watershed. It was wonderful to have such active support from FEMA Region VI. Thank you Ross Richardson and Dale Hoff!

Also, Tim Manning, Director of the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, had two big announcements as the keynote speaker. He announced that he is supporting additional staff for the flood program. Isn't that great?! Also, he announced that his agency will be facilitating a state-wide flood 'task force' to coordinate on flood related issues. He explained that the make-up of the group would include representation from NMFMA.

As a follow-up to the Santa Fe River Watershed session, the field trip to the San Isidro Crossing and Alto Park allowed attendees to see the multi-objective project work along the Santa Fe River. Although the weather was chilly, the field trip was still very successful.

The awards social was a blast! The Cowgirl Hall of Fame served some great bar-b-que and our floodplain managers enjoyed the atmosphere. We had almost 70 people at the event! Congratulations to the awards recipients and thank you to out-going Board Members.

Feedback from the Evaluation Forms was extremely helpful. Conference format, session topics and logistics are a main focus of the Board Retreat happening later this month. (If you have additional comments or suggestions, please feel free to forward them to the Conference Committee Chair, Mike Czosnek.)

A big thank you to all of our sponsors and contributors. Without their generosity, NMFMA could not host such a meaningful and fun Conference.

Bohannon Huston
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URS Corp.

Branch Development
Design Engenuity, Inc.
Joe B. Engineering LLC
Los Alamos National Bank
Mesa Negra
Richard Horcacas Land Use Consultant
Santa Fe Baking Company
Smith Engineering

On a personal note, I would like to extend my appreciation to all of the people that helped to organize and implement the Conference. It is certainly a team effort. Again, thank you to the speakers, moderators, organizers and helpers galore. **And remember... the Technical Review Division rocks!**

See Page 2 for a list of your new NMFMA Board of Directors. You will find their name, phone number and email address. If you have concerns, suggestions, and/or questions, please contact a Board Member. Remember, you elected them and they work for you.

To Permit or Not to Permit That is the Question

Dale Hoff, CFM
FEMA Region VI
(940) 898-5128

When I have the opportunity to ask local government officials how well their floodplain development permitting system is serving them, I'm often told something like, "We don't have one of those", or "My County doesn't do that". I even had one official tell me, "We don't use the 'P' word in this county". More often, I ask a community whether or not they even have a permitting system. They look at me like I had just arrived from Mars and say, "Well, of course we do!" Then they follow that up with some descriptive word or phrase to suggest that I had just asked a silly question. After just a little more inquiry, I find that they DO NOT have a floodplain development permit system. The permit they are referring to is usually a building permit. Sometimes they come back with, "Doesn't that do everything we need?" The answer is a resounding NO!

44 CFR 59.2 (b) and (c) mandate that in order to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and be eligible for the sale of flood insurance, a community must adopt and enforce at least the minimum floodplain development provisions in 44 CFR 60.3. In addition, Sections 60.3 (a)(1) and (b)(1) state that permits – floodplain development permits – are required for all proposed construction or development. So there you have it; a community adopts floodplain management provisions and makes those provisions their own (literally) through the adoption of an ordinance or court order.

Those provisions must be met and enforced. The only way I know of to enforce and monitor proper floodplain development is the conscientious use of a permitting system. The bottom line is, if your community is a participant in the NFIP and you do not have, or are not effectively using, a floodplain development permitting system, your community is technically non-compliant and sanctions could be considered.

Without exception, I have never found a violation or deficiency on a development site that would have been a problem had the wise use of a well developed permitting system been used. Even though so many New Mexico communities are doing a good, if not an outstanding job of managing development in regulatory floodplains, I am concerned that so many highly effective floodplain management decisions are being made because of the skills and technical knowledge of a few individuals, not because it was a step on a permit checklist. What happens when that individual leaves the scene? The skills and knowledge go too. An effective permitting system would not allow that to happen.

So what is a permit system and why do you need one? First, it is a regulatory requirement. However, it also does a lot of things that ensure development in the regulatory floodplain occurs without increasing flood risk to people and property. It is the best safeguard there is to help ensure that proper development takes place and it also decreases the chances for liability issues. Here are some of the things a permitting system will do for you:

- It is a communications device. It describes the construction expectations to the builder. It specifies certain requirements and documents them when they are met.
- It provides your jurisdiction's authorization to commence development when all preliminary requirements have been met.
- It helps to ensure that required actions are taken at specific times or phases during construction.
- When all documents are executed, certified, and signed properly, your permit file becomes a legal record of all development activities – beginning to end. That record has historical value, plus it could keep your community out of legal trouble in the future.

Continued on Page 8, "To Permit or Not to Permit"

ESTA LLOVIENDO CULEBRAS Y CUBEROS

NEWS FROM THE STATE HAZARD MITIGATION OFFICER

David L. R. Freeborn, CFM
State Hazard Mitigation Officer

FEMA will issue detailed guidance explaining the unification of Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) the other mitigation grants: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM).

Simply put what this means is that FEMA will no longer support stand alone flood mitigation plans. All communities who thoroughly address flooding in their mitigation plans will be eligible for FMA grants, and won't have to plan for floods apart from other natural hazards.

In New Mexico we have been working under this concept for the past year, so no real changes are in store for local planners. However, if you do not have an existing FMA plan or will be creating a mitigation plan, you will need to coordinate your flood planning into this new holistic approach.

FMA planning grants are available for updating or creating the flood section of a mitigation plan. And PDM and HMGP funds can be used to write the entire mitigation plan.

At present there are four FEMA approved Flood Mitigation Assistance plans in New Mexico, and 24 mitigation plans.

If you are interested in flood mitigation or all-hazards mitigation or projects, please let me know.

David L. R. Freeborn, CFM
State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM)
PO Box 27111
Santa Fe, NM 87502

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FROM THE EDITOR

There has been some conversation about having a co-conference with Arizona Floodplain Management Association for Fall of 2009. Once question that seems to be an issue is out-of-state travel. Currently AFMA is suggesting Hon Dah, AZ as the conference site. That location is just SE of Show Low, AZ. If out-of-state travel is an issue and would prevent you from attending such a conference, please contact Mike Czosnek at (505) 835-0240. If this is an issue with the majority of NMFMA members, we may have to abandon the idea of a co-conference if we had to travel out-of-state..

Thought for the Day:

Yesterday is gone: forget it! Tomorrow never comes; don't wait for it. Today is here, use it!

An Opportunity to Advertise In the High Waters

**Advertise Here
For Only \$200
for one year
(or \$50 an issue)**

**Advertise Here
For Only \$200
for one year
(or \$50 an issue)**

**Advertise Here
For Only \$400
for one year
(or \$100 an issue)**

**Advertise Here for Only \$800 for 1 year
(or \$200 an issue)**

Opportunity to Advertise in the New Mexico High Waters

By Diane Calhoun, CFM—Newsletter Editor

We are collecting advertisements to run in the High Waters beginning with the November 1, 2008 issue. You can place your business ad in the High Waters for one issue at a time, or for one full year at a time. The newsletter is published four times a year.

If your firm is interesting in advertising, please provide the following:

- Provide a full color graphic of the advertisement to Diane Calhoun either by email at dcalhoun@mbakercorp.com, or ftp site or CD-ROM (M. Baker Inc. 101 S. Locust St., Denton Tx 76209)
- Make your check payable to NMFMA.
- Mail check to NMFMA, Executive Office, P. O. Box 531, High Rolls, NM 88325. Be sure and reference Newsletter Advertisement on your check.
- Fax a copy of your check to Diane Calhoun at (940) 783-4144.

Stormwater Management Required for New Federal Buildings

Les Bond, CFM
Training/Education
(505) 682-1359

Most communities should be aware that stormwater management is required for new subdivisions in New Mexico. This means that the developer must design a subdivision so that runoff does not increase as a result of development.

During the ASFPM conference in Reno in May, it was reported that new federal buildings must meet similar requirements. J. William "Bill" Brown, PE of the City of Greenville, SC reported on result legislation:

The "Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007" that was signed into law on December 19, 2007 contains provisions for water quality in Title IV ("Energy Savings in Building and Industry"), Subtitle C "(High Performance Federal Buildings)". Here is the entire provision:

SEC. 438. STORM WATER RUNOFF REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

The sponsor of any development or redevelopment project involving a Federal facility with a footprint that exceeds 5,000 square feet shall use site planning, design, construction, and maintenance strategies for the property to maintain or restore, to the maximum extent technically feasible, the predevelopment hydrology of the property with regard to the temperature, rate, volume, and duration of flow.

That means that the next post office or other federal building that is built in your community should have the same detention facilities that communities require of their developers.

Continued from Page 5

To Permit or Not to Permit

Where can you obtain a sample permit application? Glad you asked. I have a document called a "Permit Sample Pack" that I can send you if you request it. Please make your request by emailing me at dale.hoff@dhs.gov to get your copy. It consists of 3 separate documents:

- Permit Process Job Aid: it describes a 10 step process in how to develop a successful permitting system (not just the permit application form).
- Sample Permit Review Checklist: compare this checklist to your current permit application and see if improvements can be made.
- Sample Floodplain Development Permit Application Form: a very comprehensive sample application

Do not become overwhelmed with the amount of information described in these documents. No single community will ever use ALL of the information provided. They are intended to be as comprehensive as possible so that a community could select just the information and steps that would apply to them. I promise you that if you conscientiously use these documents, you will find something in your current system to improve. I dare you to try it.

I wish I could describe just how important it is to develop and properly use a well designed permitting system for your community. Using such a system will provide you with the tools you need to conduct a successful, if not outstanding program for managing the regulatory floodplains in your community.

Don't stop here. Try networking with other TFMA members from other communities similar to yours. There is a great deal of experience and hard earned wisdom in our Association. And lastly, permitting is not a piece of paper – it is a process. Get it and

Updated Map Change Application Forms Available

FEMA has recently updated the forms required for Letters of Map Change (LOMCs) and posted the forms in the FEMA Library at www.fema.gov/library. Below is a description of each form, the type of LOMC they are used for, and the link to the Resource Record in the FEMA Library.

MT-EZ

This application form is used for single residential lot or structure amendments to National Flood Insurance Program maps. It is used to request that FEMA remove a single structure or a legally recorded parcel of land or portions thereof, described by metes and bounds certified by a Registered Professional Engineer or Licensed Land Surveyor, from a designated Special Flood Hazard Area via Letter of Map Amendment, or LOMA. The MT-EZ form is a condensed version of the MT-1 application form.

The MT-EZ application and instructions can be downloaded from the FEMA Library at www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2328.

MT-1

This application form is used for conditional and final LOMAs and Letters of Map Revision Based on Fill, or LOMR-Fs. It is used to assist requesters (community officials, individual property owners, and others) in gathering the information that FEMA needs to determine whether property (i.e., structure(s), parcel(s) of land) is likely to be flooded during the flood event that has a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (base, or 100-year, flood).

The forms in this package may be used for property that has been inadvertently included in a V zone or the regulatory floodway. However, if the property is to be removed from a V zone, it must not be located seaward of the landward toe of the primary frontal dune.

The MT-1 application and instructions can be downloaded from the FEMA Library at www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1492.

MT-2

These application forms are for conditional and final Letters of Map Revision. It is used for revisions to effective Flood Insurance Study reports, Flood Insurance Rate Maps, or Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps by individual and community requesters. These forms will provide FEMA with assurance that all pertinent data relating to the revision are included in the submittal. They also will ensure that:

- (a) the data and methodology are based on current conditions;
- (b) qualified professionals have assembled data and performed all necessary computations; and
- (c) all individuals and organizations affected by proposed changes are aware of the changes and will have an opportunity to comment on them.

The MT-2 application and instructions can be downloaded from the FEMA Library at www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1493.

The FEMA Library

In addition to the resources described above, an array of other useful FEMA, National Flood Insurance Program, and Map Mod resources can be viewed or downloaded from the FEMA Library at www.fema.gov/library/index.jsp.

Source: Sheila Norlin (703) 317-3054
M. Baker Jr. Inc.,



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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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.