

September  
2013

# HIGH WATERS

*A Publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association*

## October 16 - 18, 2013 - Fall Workshop Hobbs, New Mexico



**"Get out from under the rock but don't get washed away!"**

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The 2013 Fall Workshop is right around the corner. It is time to register and make hotel reservations. Many exciting events are planned and you don't want to miss out. Visit the NMFMA web site at [www.nmfma.org](http://www.nmfma.org) to make your reservations. More details on all the events can be found on the web site.

So do not delay – get your registration in and contact one of the following hotels to reserve your room for the week.

### ~~~~~ CONFERENCE HOTELS ~~~~~

**Lea County Inn - Rate \$79**

5412 N. Lovington Hwy  
Hobs, NM 88242  
575-392-2003

**Sleep Inn - Rate \$112/\$122**

4630 Lovington Hwy  
Hobbs, NM 88540  
575-393-3355

**Country Inn & Suites – Rate \$110**

5220 Lovington Hwy  
Hobbs, NM 88240  
575-391-0282

**Baymont Inn – Rate \$112**

3510 N. Central  
Hobbs, NM 88240  
575-964-8400

**La Quinta – Rate \$115**

3312 N. Lovington Hwy  
Hobbs, NM 8824  
575-397-8777



## New Mexico Certified Floodplain Managers

**Grant Pinkerton, CFM**

**Chair, Certification Committee**

**575-937-1691**



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*If you would like to join the list of CFMs, visit the NMFMA web site at [www.nmfma.org](http://www.nmfma.org) for details."*

The next CFM exam will be proctored at the NMFMA Fall workshop in Hobbs, NM at the Lea County Event Center. The registration page is up on the web site and includes a map to the event center and surrounding hotels. We haven't been able to bring the FEMA E273 to New Mexico this year, so if you are planning to take the exam, there are several documents that may help you prepare.

Under the Resource Library tab on our web site, [www.nmfma.org](http://www.nmfma.org), you can find several documents for people who are new to floodplain management by clicking on New to Floodplain Management? The NM Floodplain Management Handbook and its Ready Reference, and the Quick Guide to Floodplain Management in NM are three good documents that give easy to understand explanations of what floodplain management is all about. For more in depth discussions, the CFM Exam Preparation Guide listed in CFM Documents under the Resource Library tab, lists many publications that are good study material for preparation for the exam. The FEMA 480 is probably the most comprehensive document regarding floodplain management and is where most of the questions that are on the exam come from. It is a large publication and takes more than just a few weeks or months to comprehend.

I discussed this in the last newsletter article, but I think it is important for all local floodplain managers to understand. We have a legislative requirement in NM that each community with flood maps must have a CFM on board to administer their floodplain management ordinance and that seems to bring people in to take the exam prematurely. Administration of the local flood prevention ordinance is a requirement of FEMA, so a community with mapped flood hazard areas must have a floodplain manager administering the local ordinance. But it is OK if the floodplain manager takes a year or two to gain the knowledge and experience required to become certified. Check with Bill Borthwick, the State NFIP Coordinator here in NM to find out more about the requirements. Work with your local ordinance and maps and attend the NMFMA workshops that are held every Spring and Fall to become familiar with the concepts of floodplain management. During your period of training for the exam, don't hesitate to contact other CFMs in your area for assistance with any questions you may have. There is a list of CFMs on our web site, and if you are an NMFMA member, you can look up contact information on the member listing.

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@cablone.net](mailto:nmcfm@cablone.net).

## REMEMBERING LES BOND

**Mike Czosnek, CFM**  
**(575) 835-0240**  
**mczosnek@socorronm.gov**



I am writing this for the newsletter, but as a friend of Les's and not as a representative of NMFMA.

I became friends with Les Bond mere moments after having been elected Chairman of NMFMA. Les approached me and volunteered to become the NMFMA Executive Director. That was something I had proposed NMFMA explore in a letter to the Board of Director's prior to the election that year. Whether I had the authority or not I awarded the job to Les on the spot. That was the single most important and wise decision I ever made as Chairman.

Les helped lead NMFMA from obscurity to the national stage. At Les's urging, coaxing and occasional hammer to my head NMFMA moved into the 21st century. All of the credit for the national recognition NMFMA enjoyed goes directly to Les Bond. I believe that NMFMA would not exist today without those years that Les was the Executive Director. He laid the groundwork for what NMFMA is today.

On a personal note, Dolores and I became close friends with Les and Estelle. We enjoyed stays in their home, both for NMFMA business as well as simple fun times amongst friends. Les and Estelle were always gracious hosts. We would look forward to spending time with them when attending NMFMA conferences. When Les, Grant and I were labeled the "Three Amigo's" I viewed that as a high compliment and a truism at its heart.

So at this point in time I offer my condolences to all of Les's friends and family. I consider Les's passing a huge personal loss. I also consider Les's passing a huge loss to Floodplain Management anywhere water exists. As you may imagine that encompasses a fairly large portion of the world.



## 2013 FALL WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday, October 15, 2013				
Time		Presentation Topic/Activity	Presenter	Location
From	To			Event Center
8:30 AM	12:00 PM	CFM Refresher Course	Jim DeAngelo	Room #
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Lunch on Your Own		
1:00 PM	5:00 PM	CFM Refresher Course	Jim DeAngelo	Room #
5:00 PM		Dinner on Your own		

Wednesday, October 16, 2013				
Time		Presentation	Presenter	Location
From	To			
9:00 AM	12:00 PM	CFM EXAM		Room #
10:00 AM	5:00 PM	Conference Registration		Room #
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Lunch on Your Own		Room #
1:00 PM	1:10 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	County Manager	Room #
1:10 PM	1:30 PM	NM Cooperating Technical Partners	Bill Borthwick, Shirley Baros	Room #
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	Flood Mapping Tool	Shirley Baros	Room #
2:00 PM	2:30 PM	Collaboration during Wildfires	Bill Borthwick/Stephen Scissons	Room #
3:00 PM	3:15	Afternoon Break		Room #
3:15 PM	4:00 PM		Mario Juarez-Infante	Room #
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Storm water runoff/flood control management	Pat Stovall	Room #
5:00 PM		Adjourn		
5:30 PM	8:00 PM	Evening Social		Event Center



**AGENDA CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE**

## 2013 FALL WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE AGENDA

<b>Thursday, October 17, 2013</b>				
<b>Time</b>		<b>Presentation Topic/Activity</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>			<b>Event Center</b>
8:00 AM	8:45 AM	Non-accredited levees	Sean O'melveny	Room #
8:45 AM	9:30 AM	Elevation Certificates	Carl Watts	Room #
9:30 AM	9:45 AM	Morning Break		Room #
9:45 AM	10:45 AM	Insurance	Carl Watts	Room #
10:45 AM	11:45 PM	Watershed & Dam Coalition	Dick Smith	Room #
12:00 PM	1:30 PM	Business Luncheon		Room #
1:30 PM	2:15 PM	Field Trip/Emergency Operations Center	Lorenzo Velasquez	EOC
2:15 PM	3:30 PM	Flood Control/Storm Water Quality Improvement	Pat Stovall	Room #
3:30 PM	3:45 PM	Afternoon Break		Room #
3:45 PM	4:30 PM	Wetlands Mapping(Sacramento)	Michelle Barnes	Room #
4:30 PM	5:00 PM	Storm Water Management	Cynthia Tidwell	Room #
5:00 PM		Adjourn		
5:30 PM	8:00 PM	Evening Social		Casino

  

<b>Friday, October 18, 2013</b>				
<b>Time</b>		<b>Presentation Topic/Activity</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Location</b>
8:00 AM	8:45 AM	Websites	Michelle Truby	Room #
8:45 AM	9:30 AM	Determining Base Flood Elevations Zone A	Luke Smith	Room #
9:30 AM	9:45 AM	Morning Break		Room #
9:45 AM	10:15 AM	eLOMAs	Charla Marchuck	Room #
10:15 AM	11:00 AM	Flood Warning Systems	Paul Dugie	Room #
11:00 AM	12:00 AM		Brad Sumrall	Room #
12:00 PM		ADJOURN		



## A Changing World of Communication – Targeting the Whole Community

**Changes to the Flood Insurance Program make it imperative that FEMA communicates with the Whole Community through targeted outreach to increase awareness and encourage mitigation practices and higher standards to reduce risk.**

On July 6, 2012, the President signed into law the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12). The bill extends the authorization for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through September 30, 2017, and provides reforms to the NFIP. Among other things, this law requires FEMA to take immediate steps to eliminate a variety of existing flood insurance subsidies.

Some of these changes were implemented on January 1, 2013. Others are proposed to be implemented in 2013 and later, but all will affect residents, business owners, community leaders and stakeholders.

As FEMA moves forward into the next phase of the implementation of the Biggert-Waters NFIP Reform (BW12), Region 6 would like to highlight the October 2013 changes, the next steps for agents, the effects of these changes on property owners and where to find more information. In an effort to clearly communicate with our state, local, and regional partners, as well as stakeholder groups throughout the FEMA Region 6 five-state area, FEMA Region 6 has launched a second round of Adobe Connect meetings to address the October 2013 changes in the bill.

Stakeholder groups are being contacted through GovDelivery, the FloodSmart agent database, and stakeholder associations to register for the sessions. Local officials, Insurance agents, Lenders and Real Estate Professionals can register through the following link: <https://octbw12changes.eventbrite.com>. The on-line sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in September.

Key Messages include:

- Reform to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is expected to strengthen the call for mitigation actions, return the NFIP to the self-supporting program it once was, and balance flood risk with appropriate flood insurance.
- Whole Community partners, including federal, state, tribal, local, and the private sector must work together to ensure there is a coordinated and collaborative transition to the reformed NFIP.
- Flooding continues to be the #1 natural disaster in the U.S. and yet many communities, businesses and residents do not have flood insurance, or do not take actions to reduce or mitigate their flood risks. With the phasing out of insurance rate subsidies, now is the time to champion a renewed call for mitigation.





## From the Chair – Dave Turk, CFM

**Dave Turk, CFM**

**505-855-7543**



I hope you have enjoyed these past couple of months as the smell of fresh green chile roasting signifies the end of summer.

Speaking of this past summer, I would like to reflect on one of the most active monsoon seasons in recent memory. This precipitation is a welcome sight as it has reduced the wildfire activity significantly and provided our state with much needed water. However, these rains remind us of the danger of flash flooding and the importance of our collective experience, knowledge, and leadership as New Mexico CFMs are greatly needed to keep our homes and communities safe from flooding.

The NMFMA Board members conducted our Annual Retreat during the weekend of August 24-25, in Albuquerque. Many important issues were discussed. Most notable topics were our need to refocus on providing applicable training opportunities to our membership several times a year and the creation of a "Training and Education" Committee to lead this initiative.

The creation of a floodplain management awareness initiative, which involves engagement of New Mexico's grade school students to create a flood awareness calendar, was also discussed as a project to enhance public awareness of flash flooding.

The Board concluded with creation of a Strategic Planning Committee, which will be led by Curt Temple (NMFMA Second Vice-Chair). This interim committee is charged with revising NMFMA's Strategic Plan for the next several years.

If you are interested in contributing to any of these exciting initiatives, please contact me or any members of the Board. I will provide NMFMA's membership an update at the Fall Workshop/Conference regarding our progress on these initiatives.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to Hobbs from October 15-18 for the Fall 2013 Workshop/Conference. Cassie Corley and Lorenzo Velasquez have developed an impressive list of speakers and training opportunities. I look forward to seeing you there!



## News from the NM State Hazard Mitigation Officer

**Wendy Blackwell, State Hazard Mitigation Officer**  
505-476-9676  
[wendy.blackwell@state.nm.us](mailto:wendy.blackwell@state.nm.us)

### Mitigation Grant Funding is Available State-wide

Currently, the State of New Mexico has more than \$7,000,000 in FEMA funding in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) that can be utilized by local jurisdictions and tribal entities for natural hazard mitigation. HMGP funding is available through Presidential Disaster Declaration #4079. Although FEMA's Public Assistance Program applies only to communities declared in the disaster, HMGP is available State-wide. Interested entities should submit a Notice of Interest as soon as possible (<http://www.nmdhsem.org/Grants.aspx>). The full application should be submitted by October 23rd.

In addition, the FEMA application period for Pre-disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance programs is now open. It is estimated that there will be approximately \$220,000 available for New Mexico plans and projects for Pre-disaster Mitigation. There is approximately \$120 million available nation-wide for Flood Mitigation Assistance. Interested entities should submit a Notice of Interest as soon as possible (<http://www.nmdhsem.org/Grants.aspx>). The full application should be submitted by September 18th.

As you know, having an approved mitigation plan is a requirement of being awarded mitigation project funding. However, if your community is close to having their plan approved, a project application can still be submitted.

If you have questions about the available funding, eligibility requirements or any other aspect of the HMGP, please contact me. If your community or tribe has up-dated contact information, please provide that too.

### Job Announcement

The State Personnel Office has posted a full time Mitigation Specialist Position with DHSEM. Interested parties should apply on-line at [www.spo.state.nm.us](http://www.spo.state.nm.us).



## In an Around New Mexico with the State NFIP Coordinator

**Bill Borthwick, CFM, State Floodplain Coordinator**  
**(505) 476-9617**  
Email: [william.borthwick@state.nm.us](mailto:william.borthwick@state.nm.us)

Your State coordinator and URS Corporation were invited to present at the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Conference in Hartford, Connecticut on June 13, 2013. The topic Fire! Lessons Learned from Extensive Fires in New Mexico. New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association (NMFMA) members Rigel Rucker, PE, CFM and Phillip Drazek, PE, CFM, were our subject matter experts (smes). They documented the cascading events which lead up to potential flooding in the burn scare areas of the state. The presentation tracked the Response & Recovery efforts in these watersheds. This presentation demonstrated the uniqueness of where drought, fire and floods affect New Mexico. You as floodplain managers well know the challenges that flooding causes in your communities.

The Silver Jackets New Mexico Stakeholders were busy as well. The State got another national exposure again. The New Mexico Silver Jackets were asked to participate in the 2013 Flood Risk Management- Silver Jackets Webinar Week August 20-22, 2013. Our assignment was Collaboratively Assessing, Managing, and Reducing Risk from Flood Related Special Hazards. The Silver Jackets presenters were NMFMA members Stephen K. Scissions, PE, CFM, and Bill Borthwick, CFM, State Floodplain Coordinator. The presentation was on August 21, 2013. The chat room had 94 signees. The main focus was the Silver Jacket Partnerships established with The State of New Mexico, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Albuquerque District, FEMA, NOAA, USFS, USGS NRCS, and BIA. All these Silver Jacket members played a big role in Emergency Watershed Protection.

On a personal note I would like to thank my DHSEM colleagues, NMFMA Members, FEMA Region VI, and contractors who followed my progress and recovery form Bilateral Total Knee Replacement. I am back half days in the afternoon 1:00 p.m-4:30 p.m. starting August 19, 2013-August 30, 2013. If my doctor lets me I should be back full time Tuesday, September 2, 2013.

## News from the NMFMA Conference Chair

**Mike Czosnek, CFM**  
**(575) 835-0240**  
[mzosnek@socorronm.gov](mailto:mzosnek@socorronm.gov)

The Conference Committee Members: Chair Mike Czosnek, Grant Pinkerton and Michele Truby-Tillen.

At the Board of Directors and Committee Chair retreat held August 24-25 the Conference Committee was able to secure Board approval for a couple of things. The first item was an approval of the Conference Manual. This document was originally written by Les Bond many moons ago. It had not been kept up to date and Conference Directors had not been receiving copies. The Conference Committee began conducting conference calls that would last from 1 to 2 hours. We went through the manual word by word. This editing process lasted approximately two months. We submitted copies to the Board members prior to the retreat for their review. I would like to offer up a huge thank you to Grant and Michele for their input and time commitment to this project. Without their participation this project would never have happened. In fact without Michele's ability to type as fast as Grant and I could talk we may still be trying figure out what we actually said.



The second significant item we asked of the Board was approval for non members and out of state folks to be able to attend the NMFMA Spring 2014 Workshop/Conference in Clovis at the member registration rate of \$125. The reason for this was that the Conference Committee hopes and anticipates that floodplain managers in West Texas would take advantage of our reasonable registration rate as well as the physical proximity to the Texas border that this workshop/conference will offer. In addition we, of course, would welcome registrants from anywhere that might be interested in floodplain management.

As you should know by now the next NMFMA workshop/conference is scheduled for October 14-18 in Hobbs. Lorenzo Vasquez is your Conference Director and Cassie Corely is your Program Director. They have been busting .....butt and I think everyone will enjoy this workshop/conference. There will be exhibits to enjoy as well. Beyond Hobbs, we are scheduled for Clovis April 15-17, 2014. Louis Gordon is your Conference Director. We are still looking for a Program Director for this workshop/conference.

We are also currently scheduled for October 14-17, 2014 in Elephant Butte. Rene (Carlos ) Bustamante will be your Conference Director. At this time a Program Director has not jumped on board, so if anyone is interested in being the Program Director, please contact me. The Conference Committee is interested in locations for both Spring and Fall Workshops/Conferences in 2015. Anyone that would like to bring this rowdy bunch of hooligans to their town should contact me.

## ~~~~~FROM THE EDITOR~~~~~

**Diane Calhoun, CFM**  
**940-600-8646**  
**Pilot Point, Texas**  
[dcalhouncfm@gmail.com](mailto:dcalhouncfm@gmail.com)

It is still very hard for me to get it through my head and heart that Les Bond is no longer. I remember (many years ago) when I first meet Les. Not sure how to take him and not sure what the heck he was all about. It was not long before it was very clear that he was about floodplain management, helping and protecting people from the result of poor judgment, and poor planning.

I remember very clearly hearing him say he wanted to put NMFMA on the map. And he did just that! Under Les the Association earned national recognition with ASFPM; he helped to get legislation passed concerning CFM requirements in New Mexico. NOTE no other State Chapter has been able to get legislation passed that requires that all FPAs must be a CFM. **Thank you Les. I miss you.**

Well that leads me to the position of Editor of the Newsletter. This will be my last issue. I have been the Editor off and on for some 13 years. And it is now time that I truly step down. I started back in 2000 when Les asked if I would help. What a job that was back then. I would actually mail the newsletter out and of course Les had a list of 600+ addressees. Now imagine if you can -- getting the newsletter together, printing 600+ copies, folding 600+ copies and snail mailing 600+!!!!!! Expensive and lots of time. I was so excited when NMFMA final agreed to email and post on the web.

I think it is time that the NMFMA Newsletter Editor be someone in New Mexico. I am a member of NMFMA and a CFM and plan to remain involved in the Association, but feel that a NM member would be more appropriate.

It saddens me to say that I will not be able to attend all the Spring and Fall events as I have in the past. But semi-retirement means there needs to be some cut backs – you know what that means. I love y'all very much and have enjoyed being involved since the beginning of NMFMA.

Thank you for allowing someone from Texas to be your Editor for these years, and most of all thank you for being my friend(s). I love y'all.



*Farewell*

# NMFMA Application for Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation:**

- Local Government
- State Government
- Federal Government
- Private
- Academic
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Nature of Duties**

- Administrative
- Engineering
- Planning
- Insurance
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues for one Calendar Year**

- Individual Membership \$35.00
  - New Member
  - Renewal

**MAKE CHECK OUT TO NMFMA**

**Send to: NMFMA Executive Office**  
**P.O. Box 3964**  
**Roswell, NM 88202**

**I am interested in the following:**

- Dam Safety
- Flood Data
- Structural Flood Control
- Litigation/Legal Issues
- Wetland Issues
- AO/AH Flooding
- Crawl Spaces
- Flood Warning & Responses
- GIS Issues
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**I am interested in the following Committees:**

- Certification
- Conference
- Floodplain Management
- Legislative
- Membership
- Nomination
- Training/Education
- Technical

## Purpose of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association

### ***A Publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association***

NMFMA  
P.O. Box 3924  
Roswell, New Mexico 88202  
  
(575) 937-1691

We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.nmfma.org](http://www.nmfma.org)

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 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.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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