

High Waters

A Publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association

A Quarterly Newsletter

December 2015

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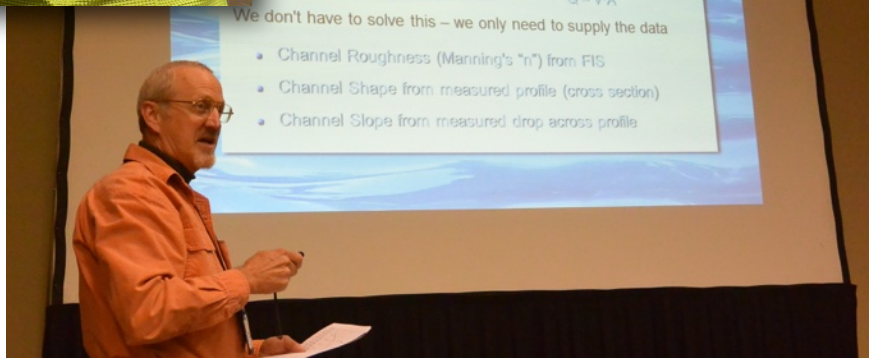
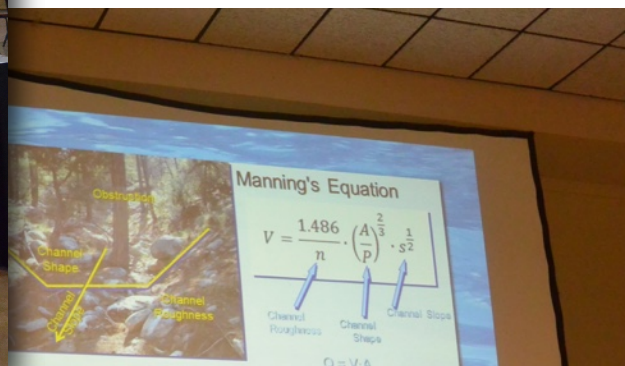
Fall Workshop

Water, Paperwork and Floodplains - Back to the Basics

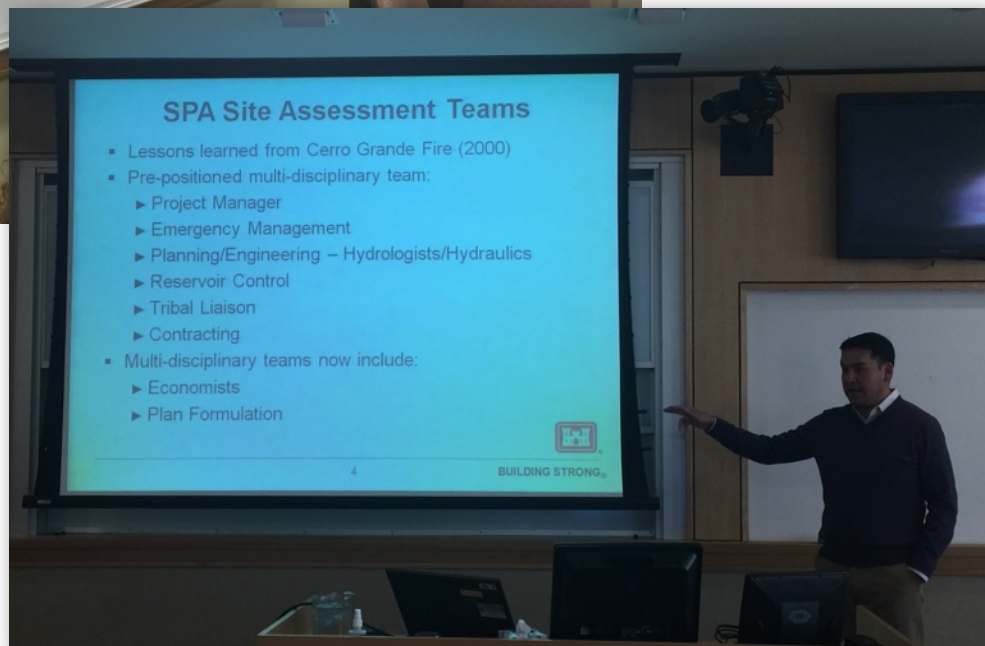
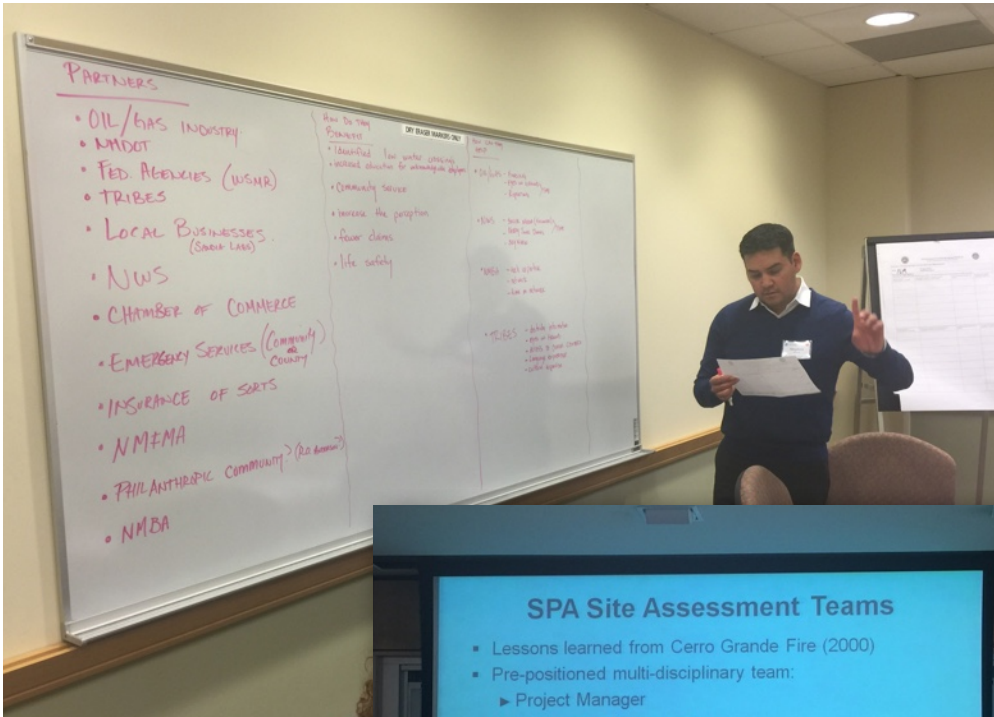
The Fall 2015 NMFMA Workshop and Conference was a great success. Thank you to all those who volunteered, presented, and especially our sponsors.







USACE Silver Jackets Flood Risk Management Workshop



Build an Emergency Supply Kit for your Vehicle

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The complex terrain of New Mexico, ranging from the eastern plains, high mountains across the northern and western regions, to the Rio Grande Valley, combines to create weather regimes that change quickly over relatively short distances. Highway travelers may find themselves first in light snow or rain then suddenly in heavy snow as the highway climbs through a mountain pass. The weather may be relatively mild and sunny along the Rio Grande valley with near blizzard conditions found across the high plains east of the central mountain chain. Winter weather can be deadly if you fail to take proper precautions. Be sure to check out the information available at the National Weather Service to become familiar with winter weather safety facts, products, and climate. <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/index.shtml>



From the Chair - Dave Turk

David Turk, CFM, GISP

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I hope you are planning to take some time off to spend with family and friends this holiday season. With 2015 winding down, I wanted to take some time to highlight our successes this year and the exciting activities that we have in store for 2016.

Our Turn Around Don't Drown (TADD) road sign initiative was a huge success! With help from NMDHSEM, NMFMA distributed 230 TADD road signs to communities across New Mexico. TADD signs are an effective measure to promote flood safety during flooding and monsoon events. EDAC is hosting an interactive web mapping tool illustrating all the low water crossings that now have a TADD sign installed (<https://edac.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=13d7a67071a5465e91ed01ceaad25433>). Thank you for all involved in this important initiative and making it a great success.

We are in the process of compiling all the great art work created by students (grades 3-6) that were submitted by our membership from all across the state that will comprise of our 2016 Flood Awareness Calendar. We plan to have the calendar created this month for distribution in January. We plan to ship the calendars to Albuquerque, Farmington, and Las Cruces so NMFMA members can coordinate a time to pick up the calendars to ensure they are distributed in a timely manner. Thank you for all involved in this grass roots initiative of educating our citizens about the dangers of flooding.

Both our spring and fall conference workshops in Albuquerque and Ruidoso were a big success with great attendance. The programs were top notch with informative and engaging presenters that provided an invaluable opportunity to share projects and lessons learned so that we can all become more knowledgeable in floodplain management.

Just this month we finalized another sub-grant agreement with NMDHSEM that will provide funding for: (1) additional TADD signs, (2) two additional Flood Model Simulators, (3) reimbursement for qualified expenses to attend NMFMA workshop conferences, and (4) on-going yearly financial support for the creation of our Flood Awareness Calendar initiative. Both NMDHSEM and FEMA have demonstrated to be important partners in supporting our mission of educating New Mexico and its citizens on floodplain management. This additional funding will keep our initiatives rolling in 2016 and the Board is always open to new ideas that NMFMA can implement to align with our mission and strategic goals. We also are planning several training opportunities in 2016 for our membership similar to the 4-day FEMA 273 Floodplain management course in Las Cruces this month that we are sponsoring.

In closing, I would like to invite you to become more involved in NMFMA in 2016 to continue to advance our mission and goals and for us to be more knowledgeable floodplain managers. I thank you for your continued valuable work and attention to this announcement. I wish you a joyous holiday season with your family and friends.



New Mexico Certified Floodplain Managers

Grant Pinkerton, CFM
Chair, Certification Committee

The CFM exam was proctored at the NMFMA Fall workshop in Ruidoso, NM, October 7, 2015 at the Ruidoso Convention Center. Congratulations to the following new CFMs who passed the exam in Ruidoso:

Micheal Christensen, CFM	City of Artesia
Eric Collins, CFM	DT Collins & Associates
Alexandrea Dodge, CFM	Dennis Engineering Company
Dennis McCarville, CFM	Elephant Butte Irrigation District
Cory Pierce, CFM	Dennis Engineering Company
Curtis Simpson, CFM	Quay County

The next CFM exam will be proctored at the NMFMA Spring 2016 workshop at the Buffalo Thunder Hotel and Casino just north of Santa Fe. If you are interested in taking the exam, please remember that no matter what paperwork or on-line registration you submit for any specific workshop, class, or other function, **YOU MUST SUBMIT A CFM EXAM APPLICATION PACKET** to the Certification Board before you can be scheduled to take the exam. The packet is downloadable from the Certification page of the NMFMA website. The Application Packet should be mailed to the Roswell address noted in the packet. Any questions should be directed to Grant Pinkerton, Certification Board Chair, at nmcfm@cableone.net. Registration for the Spring workshop and the CFM exam will be up on the NMFMA web site sometime after the first of the year. Keep your eye on our web site for information about future events.

From the Conference Committee

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The Conference Committee has begun conference calling in preparation for the Spring Workshop / Conference. The workshop / conference will be April 12-15, 2016 at Buffalo Thunder Resort / Casino north of Santa Fe. Joe Barela is your Conference Director and Sean O'Melveny and Eric Nemeth are the Program Directors. Eric will be handling the technical track for all day on Thursday and Sean everything else.

The Fall 2016 Workshop / Conference will be in Deming in September. Phil Butz is your Conference Director and Phil is still seeking a program director.

The Conference Committee is still seeking a location for the Spring of 2017 and has received a proposal for the Fall of 2017 from Angel Fire. As of this writing no decision has been made. Anyone in the Albuquerque area interested in having the Spring 2017 workshop / conference please contact me.

Unless something unforeseen happens reimbursements should be available for government employees attend the workshop / conference. Due to the confusion witnessed in Ruidoso we have requested that someone from Bill's office do a power point presentation and anyone wishing to submit a reimbursement request stick around for a few minutes after lunch and fill out the forms as they are presented. In order to have a complete form you will need to print out a Rand McNally map from your residence to the workshop / conference site for correct mileage computation. I suggest you bring that with you.

That's all folks, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



In and Around New Mexico with the State NFIP Coordinator

Bill Borthwick, CFM, State Floodplain Coordinator

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USACE Silver Jackets Flood Risk Management Workshop

Your State Floodplain Coordinator joined Stephen K. Scissons (P.E., CFM, Silver Jackets Coordinator) and Michael Camponovo (CFM, NMFMA Newsletter Editor) in Southbridge, Massachusetts December 1 to December 4 for a National Silver Jackets State Teams Workshop. The Workshop was a national response by Silver Jacket State Teams to discuss flood risk management roles as ongoing national policy initiatives. The objective was to explore resilience as an organizing framework to develop and implement whole community strategies with a focus on flood risk management.

The goal of the Workshop was to improve project delivery resulting in measurable flood risk management and resilience. Another goal was to improve integration of USACE Flood Risk Management related activities. In addition, the Workshop will improve the ability of the Silver Jackets teams to work with new and existing partners to identify, design and implement projects with flood risk reduction and risk management outcomes.

This Workshop is where the NMFMA steps up to perform on the “national stage”. Our Silver Jacket core group will be presenting the New Mexico Turn Around Don’t Drown (TADDNM) Program. The purpose of the program is to educate drivers about the risks of attempting to cross flooded roadways.

The interagency stakeholders will also be exposed to the NMFMA FloodSmart Calendar program that informs the young elementary students on the risk of flooding. Another initiative that will be introduced is the New Mexico Jingle, “Turn Around Don’t Drown.” This program focuses on informing high school students about flood risk.

We are also proposing flood awareness and flood preparedness for the adult population. We plan to showcase New Mexico’s effort to develop Non Regulatory Flood Products. Examples will be depth grids and inundation flood maps which can be used to keep citizens reasonably safe from flooding.

The New Mexico Silver Jacket Team will share any feedback from other State teams which have developed original ideas, identified funding opportunities and strengthened partnership opportunities.

Animas Watershed Discovery – A Timely Collaborative Effort between Colorado and New Mexico

Thuy Patton, Colorado Water Conservation Board

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In early Summer 2015, the States of Colorado and New Mexico identified the Animas Hydrologic Unit Code 8 (HUC8) Watershed as a candidate for a joint-effort Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (MAP) study. The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is excited to team up with the University of New Mexico (UNM) Earth Data Analysis Center (EDAC) to conduct the initial Discovery step of the Risk MAP project. The project will be coordinated across two states and two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regions. Included in the coordination will also be seven counties in southwestern Colorado, one county in northwestern New Mexico, multiple communities in both states, and at least one tribal entity.

An important aspect of consideration for Discovery is to promote resilience. The project team can discuss multiple aspects of resilience with the local communities. One noteworthy item is that the Animas HUC8 Watershed received elevated visibility while Discovery planning was occurring. Contaminated wastewater was spilled from the Gold King Mine near the watershed's headwaters in early August 2015. Considering the recently heightened environmental concerns, this Discovery effort will expand its evaluation of mitigation efforts to also highlight select environmental considerations in addition to ongoing and prospective mitigation initiatives for flood and other natural hazards.



Through the Discovery process, local agencies can look forward to the following activities:

Initial Contact: The project team will partner with interested state and federal agencies and conduct an initial investigation of available information in the watershed. Key community leaders will then be contacted to begin discussions on the Discovery process, their role, and potential mitigation opportunities.

Discovery Meeting(s): In-person discussions will be scheduled to discuss community watershed vision, local hazard-related concerns, potential mitigation strategies, regulatory map study needs, risk assessment, and local communication capabilities and responsibilities. Meetings will be planned in Colorado and New Mexico.

Discovery Findings: The project team and partners will compile ideas, discussion items, and potential resulting mitigation actions into a summary. An additional meeting will then be scheduled with local stakeholders to discuss the findings, and discuss potential next steps.

Please visit www.coloradohazardmapping.com to learn about Colorado's Hazard Mapping Program

Training News

EMI

The FEMA Emergency Management Institute has an informational bulletin on classes that they will be having in Emmitsburg, MD as well as online offerings.

<https://training.fema.gov/emigrams/>

When you find a course and date you are interested in, coordinate with Bill Borthwick, NMDHSEM to process the appropriate paperwork. Details about applying for EMI are available [here](#).

Certified Stormwater Inspector

Greetings Stormwater Professionals,

The National Stormwater Center is offering Certified Stormwater Inspector (municipal) training in Albuquerque, NM on February 11-12, 2016.

Designed specifically for municipal personnel our course offers training and certification to demonstrate, for the record, that inspectors are qualified.

Inspectors who take our course learn:

- how to inspect construction, commercial, and industrial, and municipal activities
- what to inspect
- the limits of their authority
- appropriate demeanor
- appropriate discretion

They also learn about the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, the six Minimum Control Measures, and how to better implement and support their MS4 stormwater program.

Graduates of the Certified Stormwater Inspector course receive certification for 5 years and continuing education units, and ongoing, unlimited support of the National Stormwater Center. All of our instructors have stormwater enforcement experience at the Federal or State level.

Please download the announcement with course details and registration information. You may call Michele at 1-888-397-9414, email info@npdes.com or visit our website at www.npdes.com. Registration is available on our website for all classes.

The Voice – Increasing Awareness, Encouraging Mitigation Action

FEMA Region VI

FEMA Region 6 has just released the latest issue of our newsletter, The Voice, and it is available on our website at http://www.riskmap6.com/documents/resource/TheVoice_Sep2015_508.pdf

You can sign up on RiskMAP6.com to receive future issues of The Voice newsletter upon publication release.

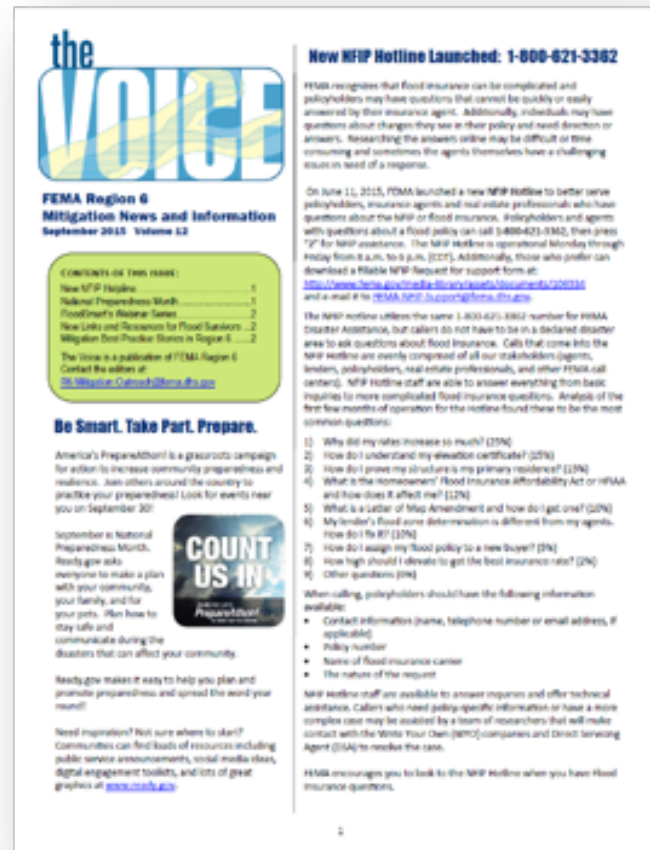
The September 2015 issue includes information and links related to the new NFIP Hotline, Preparedness for your family and community, FloodSmart's free webinar series, new links for flood survivors, and information on a collection of Mitigation success stories in Texas.

Remember to sign up to participate in FEMA Region 6 "Virtual Brown Bag" Webinars, a new online series to help communities create useful GIS products with the flood risk products delivered during a Risk MAP study here: <https://r6virtualbrownbag.eventbrite.com>

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

RiskMAP6.com

"Helping communities understand a complete picture of their natural hazard risk"



FROM THE EDITOR

Michael Camponovo, CFM

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As usual there is plenty of exciting work going on across New Mexico in regards to hazard mitigation and floodplain management. Keep an eye out for updates via email about our plans with FEMA Region VI, the USACE Silver Jackets Program, NMDHSEM, and lidar legislation.

Have a great holiday. See you in April.



Michael Camponovo

Lidar Update

Lidar data for Curry and Roosevelt County has been flown and is expected to be delivered in Spring 2016. This will result in three HUC-8 watersheds where we can start working on a variety of hazard mitigation projects and risk analyses.

The lidar for the Upper Rio Grande HUC-8 has not been flown yet and will likely wait until late spring when the snow has cleared. We'll update you all as we learn more.

The Rio Chama HUC-8 watershed will be our priority for the upcoming year followed by the missing part of the Rio Grande - Santa Fe to complete Santa Fe County's recent QL2 acquisition.

The big news is that the New Mexico Association of Counties has made lidar acquisition a legislative priority for the coming legislative session. We hope to have a bill number soon that we can share with you. Be expecting a phone call or email asking for you to let your local officials know about the bill and to potentially contact your legislator as well.

The legislative process will happen very quickly moving forward so please be prepared to help quickly if contacted.

Purpose of the NMFMA

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

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