

High Waters

A publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association

A Quarterly Newsletter

December 2017

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Spring Workshop

The Spring 2018 NMFMA Workshop and Conference will be **April 10-13, 2018** at the [Drury Hotel](#) in Santa Fe. Michael Garcia MGarcia@rio-arriba.org is your conference director. For more information visit :

[NMFMA Spring Workshop & Conference](#)

DRURY
PLAZA HOTEL
in Santa Fe

FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings NMFMA Membership! The busy holiday season has snuck up on us all again. I know that I don't feel ready; I hope you all are faring better than me and meeting the season demands with gusto.

I wanted to update you on what the Board has been working on for you. In early December, the Board met in Albuquerque. We had some great discussions on how we can best serve our membership. One thing identified is that we need to hear from you. We need to know what your needs, challenges, and ideas are. To help draw out input, you can expect to hear from your Regional Directors in the coming months. There will be a more focused effort on their part to reach out to all their members and floodplain administrators in their area and just have a conversation about what is going on in their communities and what challenges, questions, or successes they have had. Your input helps make this organization better and better at serving your needs.

With that said, Dave Turk has resigned as the Region 1 Director. He felt he couldn't provide the level of service as a Regional Director that the membership deserves given his current work load. I'd like to thank Dave for his years of service to NMFMA. We'll miss you. Dave - If life begins to level, you know where to find us. ;o) As a result, I will be reaching out to Region 1. I look forward to hearing from you all.

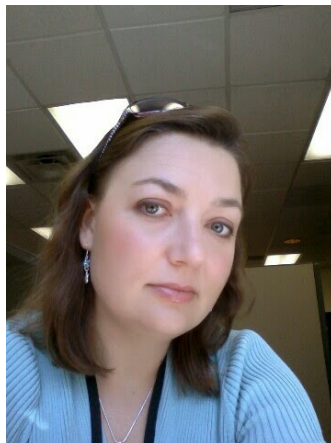
As a Board, we continue to work on bringing training opportunities to NM. ESP will be hosting a 4 hour session on 2D flow in HEC-RAS prior to the conference. Wendy and Veronica are working to bring G273 to Albuquerque in February. Be on the lookout for more information about those two opportunities in the weeks to come. Also, our new webmaster, Anders Berg, will be diligently working to keep the website updated with the latest information.

The Board continues to work with the State for grant funding for outreach initiatives and materials. If you have any ideas or would like more information on these initiatives, contact Michele Truby. And as always, we are looking for presenters for the upcoming workshop. We really do want to hear from you. Your local experience helps your fellow Floodplain Administrators – So share that. You don't have to be an expert, you don't have to have all the answers, you may not even have an answer – but share your challenges and experiences. Because I guarantee there are others facing the exact same thing; we are all better when we share and work together. If you'd like more information about presenting, contact Loretta Hatch or myself.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Workshop at the Drury Inn in Santa Fe.

Sincerely,

Nicole Friedt, P.E., CFM



From the State Floodplain Coordinator

During the short time I have been in the position of State Floodplain Coordinator I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to make introductions and work with a few communities. I appreciate the warm welcomes that I have received from all. I will strive to maintain the strong relationships that Bill developed over the years with the local Floodplain Administrators and I hope to develop many new relationships as well. I would also like to express gratitude to the Board Members of NMFMA for all their time and effort devoted to the association.

As a reminder to the communities who have not yet submitted the survey that was handed out at the Fall Workshop in Angel Fire, please do so. The survey is designed to identify the needs of the communities so that I can better serve as the State partner. Feel free to contact me with questions about the survey. Thank you to the communities who have participated so far. The communities who participated in the survey and requested a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Call (CAC) had their requests considered in the up-coming Statement of Work that will be submitted to FEMA. The early bird does indeed get the worm!

Recently, DHSEM met with Stephen Scissons, Hydrology and Hydrologic Section Chief/Silver Jackets Coordinator and Bruce Jordan, Geotechnical Engineer/Levee Safety Program Manager of the USACE. At this meeting the USACE Levee Inventory & Review project was discussed. A presentation on this project was given at the Fall Workshop in Angel Fire. An up-date on the status will be presented at the Spring Workshop.

USACE has been given the authority through the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA 2014) to conduct an on-going levee inventory and a one-time levee risk assessment. The levee inventory and review will be on NON-USACE levees (state, county, city, owners/operators) and levees outside of USACE programs.

Phase I of this project is to develop a specific state approach. A State agency will be designated as the cooperating and participation agency for this project. The designated State agency may also have regulatory authority once all phases of the project have been completed. It is anticipated that after certification, the owner of the levee will be required to submit an Emergency Action Plan and conduct exercises. The milestone to meet this requirement has not yet been determined. The success of meeting this requirement will likely depend on coordination between the levee owner, the local emergency manager, the floodplain administrator, and State agencies. Additional information will be provided at the Spring Workshop along with the opportunity to pose questions.

I am looking forward to many joint accomplishments in 2018 as we collectively work to reduce the risk of flood damage in the communities of New Mexico.

Veronica Chavez

State Floodplain Coordinator

NMDHSEM, Preparedness Bureau

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From the State Hazard Mitigation Officer

State Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

As many of you know, DHSEM is in the process of up-dating the State Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The current Plan was approved in September 2013 and expires in September 2018. The multi-agency/organization Planning Team has been meeting since early 2017 to prepare the up-dated Plan. Since data collection ended in December 2012 for the currently approved Plan, there are five years of data to collect and analyze.

The Plan is structured by Preparedness Area; these are the six 'regions' of the State that DHSEM uses for coordination, training, etc. A map is below for your reference. Shawn Penman, NMFMA Secretary, serves as the NMFMA representative on the Planning Team. If you would like to review and comment on the flood or dam failure sections of the Plan, please contact Kyle Mason, DHSEM Mitigation Specialist (505-476-9682 or Kyle.Mason@state.nm.us). Data collection will be completed in December 2017 with final formatting and edits being completed by March 2018. If you are interested in commenting on the draft... now is your chance!

FEMA 273 course offering and CFM exam in February

Don't forget to register for the FEMA 273 course being held Monday February 5th through Friday, February 9th. Recognizing that Sunday, February 4th is the Super Bowl, the course will start at 1pm on Monday, February 5th and end at noon on February 9th. The CFM exam will be proctored starting at 1pm on Friday, February 9th. The course and exam will be held at the Bernalillo County Emergency Operations Center in Albuquerque. Register for the course and the exam at www.NMFMA.org

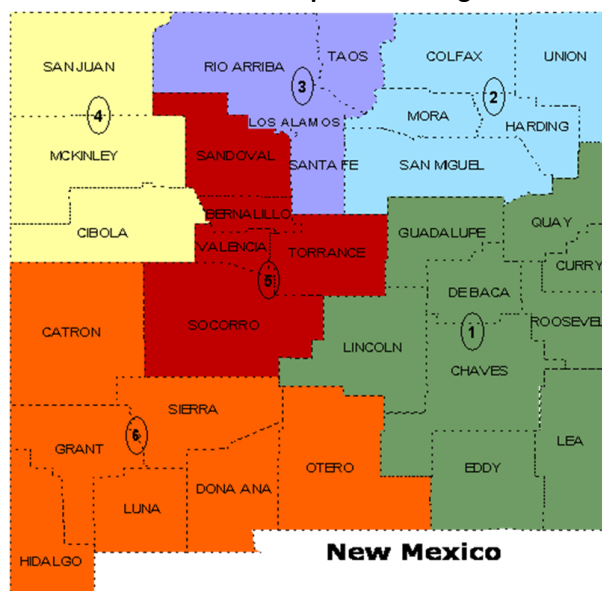
DHSEM will be offering travel reimbursement to eligible course participants. As in the past, there are specific eligible expenses and required paperwork that must be submitted. You must get a general DHSEM pre-approved in order to submit for the travel reimbursement. Keep all of your receipts. If you plan to request reimbursement or have questions, please contact Veronica Chavez, State Floodplain Coordinator. We will review the travel paper work in detail at one of the course breaks.

Wishing you all a wonderful 2018!

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NM DHSEM Preparedness Regions





New Mexico Certified Floodplain Managers

We have a process on our web site where CFMs who need to renew their certification can go to pay the renewal fee online. This site is set up for CFM renewal only. Several people have gone to this location to pay their NMFMA membership renewal fee this year. The problem is that when the \$25 is paid thru the CFM renewal process, the \$35 membership fee does not get recorded and the person doesn't get his membership dues paid. Membership renewal notices get sent out every December 1 and 31 to those members who have not renewed their membership. This fee can be paid online, but you must follow the process set up by Club Express and click on the renew button that shows up when you log into the web site. Going to the Event Calendar will only allow you to pay for your CFM renewal. You can always contact me if you have any questions.

The FEMA 273 class will be held at the Bernalillo County Emergency Operations Center in Albuquerque February 5 thru 9 and the CFM exam will be proctored on that Friday. The registration page for the class and exam is currently on the NMFMA web page. Let me know if you have any questions about registering for the class or exam.

Grant Pinkerton, CFM

CFM Program Administrator

NFIP Communities—Non-Buyer Beware The Insurance Reduction

As we ever-improve floodplain management, we will eventually obviate the need for flood insurance. But we are not there yet. By “we”, I mean the communities we represent. This is a topic which your mayor would rather hear from you first, *before* your town’s facilities are hit by a flood.

Many towns, cities, and states expect to receive federal financial assistance to repair public buildings after a presidentially-declared disaster. FEMA’s Public Assistance (PA) program does just that. With the Insurance Reduction. Payments to help repair a given structure in the Special Flood Hazard Area get reduced by the amount that flood insurance would have paid. Read it, and study it for yourself at 44 CFR 206.250&252. If you have questions, please call FEMA Region 6 and talk to the PA folks.

Here is a scenario, your town hall, civic center, and high school all flood big time, \$1.2M to fix each. Your town applies to receive \$3.6M for eligible repairs. Depending on details beyond the scope of this article, your town may receive only \$2.1M. A NFIP policy (or private policy) for \$500K could have, should have, been purchased for each structure. The amount from PA for your town was reduced by \$1.5M. The Insurance Reduction. Non-Buyer Beware!

It has happened to others. Read a recent story, some towns are learning this in late 2017 during recovery from floods that hit them in Fall 2016. http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/article_ff0e8950-c956-11e7-9c1b-03bcd8a8f2e4.html

Outsmart Your Risks. It’s Just Good Business Sense.

David Hiegel

Natural Hazards Program Specialist

FEMA Region 6



FEMA

SSCAFCA Water Quality and Arroyo Improvement

This project is located in Bernalillo, NM along Sheriff's Posse Rd. approximately 0.25 miles south of US 550. This new facility is located on the Coronado Arroyo, which conveys storm water from portions of the City of Rio Rancho and the Town Bernalillo, ultimately discharging to the Rio Grande. The water treatment portion of this site is being constructed approximately 900-ft upstream of the confluence with the Rio Grande.

Designed by SSCAFCA's internal engineering design team, the concept for this project is to divert runoff from smaller, more frequent storms into a meandering water quality (WQ) channel where the flow is passively treated before it returns to the main arroyo. As flow enters the meandering WQ portion of this project, it is provided the opportunity to infiltrate into the surrounding sandy soils and get "cleaned" in a variety of ways:



- The WQ channel will include gabion basket side walls. The gabion baskets are filled with basalt rock, a porous igneous rock, which will promote a "wicking" effect on the passing storm water and allow it to soak into the native soils and provide moisture to the native vegetation.
- The WQ channel will include a natural sandy-soil bottom. The soils in this area are naturally sandy in nature and have excellent infiltration rates. This sand acts as a natural filter for oils and other suspended contaminants commonly found in urban/rural storm water discharges.
- The longitudinal slope of the WQ channel is very flat in comparison to the main arroyo. This flat slope will work to reduce flow velocities and allow the storm water to infiltrate.
- The WQ channel outlet pipe, which conveys flow from the WQ channel back into the main arroyo, is set above the channel grade, creating a ponding effect which further promotes infiltration of storm water.

In addition to the WQ component of this project, SSCAFCA has designed a significant amount of improvements to the main Coronado Arroyo including:

- Providing a more efficient, trapezoidal design of the arroyo to increase flow-carrying capacity and protect adjacent property and citizens from runoff resulting from the 1% Chance Annual Storm (100-yr Storm).
- Stabilizing the channel banks strategically with riprap armoring to reduce project cost and impact to the environment.
- Providing grade control structures to mitigate increased flows from future upstream development and preserve the channel's "equilibrium slope".
- Providing maintenance access for the arroyo (where there was previously none) in order to monitor the condition of this system and conduct annual maintenance as required.



Designing a weather station and flow gauge to improve SSCAFCA's in-house storm data collection and provide the public with realistic "on-the-ground" information on rainfall events.

<http://sscafca.org/>



Dale Hoff

It is with very heavy hearts that we relay the devastating news that our wonderful friend and colleague, Dale Hoff has passed. As most of you know, Dale was the New Mexico contact for the National Flood Insurance Program for many years. He developed strong working relationships with many of our floodplain managers. We all are so grateful for his experience, inspiration and guidance. Dale was a dear friend to many of us in New Mexico.

The last week in October he celebrated his retirement after 34 years with FEMA. His wife Diane recently retired as well and they were in Utah for their first stay in their new home; it was a retirement dream for them. Dale fell and suffered a fatal blow to his head. He was buried in Utah the first week in November and the family had a Memorial Service in Denton on Saturday, November 11, 2017. NMFMA sent a beautiful flower arrangement to the Service. Please keep his family in your prayers.



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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