



Plain Talk NEWSLETTER

The Florida Floodplain Managers Association Newsletter
for Dedicated Floodplain Professionals

Fall/Winter 2006

Visioning Retreat Summary...



Annual Meeting Summary

The FFMA Visioning Retreat was held in Tampa, Florida to review and update the FFMA's future roles in floodplain management and Florida's dynamic water resources management programs. In summary, the short range development goals of FFMA include:

- Conduct an annual conference
- Hold six training sessions; one in each Region
- Conduct NFIP basic course
- Increase CFMs in the state by 50 persons
- Provide continuing education
- Establish new membership model
- Contact five legislators and provide them with fact sheets
- Create forum for each regional training session.

The long range development goals of FFMA include:

- Create clear definition of FPM
- Define/develop program and enhancement
- Produce newsletters
- Develop training schedule
- Partner with legislators
- Build memberships
- Assure FPMs are certified
- Develop Florida CFM program
- Create data resource list
- Create a position paper on issues
- Increase membership diversity
- Hire liaison for legislative issues
- Establish contracts/internal services.

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Details on the Visioning Retreat can be found on FFMA's website under the Members area information (Team Access).

Save the Date!



2007 ANNUAL MEETING

Florida Floodplain Managers Association

February 28-March 2, 2007 ❖ Stuart, Florida

The 2007 Annual FFMA Meeting will be held in Stuart on February 28-March 2, 2007 at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort & Marina. Total conference fee is just \$200, which includes all of the training sessions.

Preliminary Meeting Schedule

- Training sessions are scheduled for a full day on Wednesday February 28th, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
- Our Dine-Arounds, which have been very popular (and oversubscribed) for the last two years, are scheduled for Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm.
- Our Annual Meeting and FFMA Business Meeting will occur on Thursday, March 1st.
- We are planning FFMA's first Hawaiian Luau for Thursday evening starting at 6:30 pm – Hawaiian Shirts are the dress code for this event, but grass skirts are optional!
- Training sessions are scheduled on Friday, March 2nd from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

* [A more detailed program schedule and registration form will follow shortly via e-mail.](#)

Hotel Information

The Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort & Marina is located at 555 N.E. Ocean Boulevard, on Hutchinson Island in Stuart. FFMA has negotiated a block of rooms that will be available at the special meeting rate of \$129 per night plus applicable taxes, which is also available three days before and three days after the meeting if you want to spend some extra time in the Stuart area. The last day that you will be able to make your reservations at this rate is January 27th and rooms fill fast. **Be sure that you get a room. Make your reservations today by calling 800.775.5936.**





NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

What's New with the CRS?

Contributed by: Sherry Harper

The following are some items of interest to those communities currently in the CRS and other interested parties.

2006 CRS Coordinator's Manual

The new CRS Coordinators Manual is ready! All CRS coordinators should have received their copy by now. If you need additional copies, they may be ordered from your ISO specialist.

New Elevation Certificate

The latest Elevation Certificate is now in use. Any elevation certificate certified on or after January 1, 2006 must be on the new form. For insurance purposes, photographs will be required. Your ISO specialist will not be requiring copies of photographs during your cycle visits.

The current form can be downloaded from the FEMA website using the following link:
www.fema.gov/nfip/elvinst.shtm.

New Applications

We welcome the **City of Sunny Isles Beach, the City of Milton, and the City of Mary Esther** to the CRS. These communities have applied and will enter the CRS effective October 1, 2007.

We currently have 213 CRS Communities in Florida. Remember — you can apply to modify your CRS class at any time. There are new and higher credits in the 2006 CRS Coordinator's Manual that you should consider.

Reminders:

To CRS Coordinators

Recertifications

Recertifications were mailed in July and August to all CRS Communities not scheduled for a cycle visit in 2006. The deadline to submit your recertification was October 1, 2006. If for some reason you did not receive your Recertification contact your ISO/CRS Specialist immediately so you do not risk being retrograded to CRS class 10.

Repetitive Loss Update Worksheets

It is very important to keep your Repetitive Loss information up to date. Our records indicate many communities do not regularly update this list. Removal of mitigated properties from your list reduces your workload and outreach requirements under the CRS program. If you have any questions regarding how to update your list, contact your ISO specialist.

Other Reminders:

FEMA/CRS Resource Center

If you are interested in learning more about the CRS, check out the FEMA/CRS Resource Center on the FEMA website. It describes each activity and provides samples of various CRS documents and publications for you to reference. The resource center can be accessed using the following link:

www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/CRS. Your ISO/CRS Specialist is also available to assist you.

2006 Training Wrap-Up

The FFMA coordinated through its membership eleven new elevation certificate workshops and five E-273 EMI Deployed workshops *“Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP”* and one *“Successfully Integrating Mitigation into the Public Assistance Program.”*

Very special thanks go out to those members and associates that took their time and effort to coordinate these workshops in their communities:

Dr. M. Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., P.E., CFM
Wilma Nicholas, Administrative Assistant
Orange County Stormwater Management

Mike Gambino, CFM
Miami-Dade Environmental Resource
Management

Theresa Meyers, P.E., CBO, CFM
Linda Cadle, Administrative Assistant
City of Tampa Department of Community Development

Michael Griffin, CBO, CFM
Lisa Major-Hoyt, Office Manager
St. John’s County Development Services

Dawn Burkhart, CFM
Polk County Floodplain Management

Nancy Witty, CFM
Citrus County Community Development

Eugene Henry, AICP, CFM
Hillsborough County Hazard Mitigation and Growth Management

Lori Hudson, CFM
City of St. Petersburg Building Division

Karen Thornhill, CFM
Santa Rosa County Building Inspection

Donna Bailey, CFM
Lake County Department of Public Works

Serena Jonnet, CFM
City of Naples Building and Zoning

Mary Wingate, CFM
Monroe County

Alice Rankeillai, P.E., CFM
Gina Hawkins, Administrative Assistant
City of Gainesville Public Works

James Akins,
Carla Tesnow
Indian River County

2006 FFMA Coordinated Training Schedule

Type of Workshop	Location	Date	Number	Hosted	Instructor
E-273 Deployed	Orlando	1/23 – 1/27	24	Krishna	Prasad Inmula/FEMA
E-273 Deployed	Miami-Dade	5/1 – 5/5	24	M. Gambino	Prasad Inmula/FEMA
E-273 Deployed	Tampa	8/28 – 9/1	30	T. Meyers	Prasad Inmula/FEMA
E-273 Deployed	St. Augustine	11/6 – 11/10		M. Griffin	Prasad Inmula/FEMA
E-273 Deployed	Bartow	12/4 – 12/8		D. Burkhart	Prasad Inmula/FEMA
Elevation Certificate	Polk County	4/14	75	D. Burkhart	David Melvin/LandPro
Elevation Certificate	Citrus County	4/20	37	N. Witty	Prasad Inmula/FEMA
Elevation Certificate	Hillsborough Co.	4/20	34	G. Henry	Prasad Inmula/FEMA
Elevation Certificate	St. Petersburg	4/21	63	L. Hudson	Prasad Inmula/FEMA
Elevation Certificate	Santa Rosa Co.	6/7	49	K. Thornhill	David Melvin/LandPro
Elevation Certificate	Lake County	6/23	39	D. Bailey	David Melvin/LandPro
Elevation Certificate	Monroe County	6/29	39	M. Wingate	David Melvin/LandPro
Elevation Certificate	Orange County	7/11	37	Krishna	Prasad Inmula/FEMA
Elevation Certificate	Naples	7/12	67	S. Jonnet	Prasad Inmula/FEMA
Elevation Certificate	Gainesville	7/14	40	A. Rankeillai	David Melvin/LandPro
Elevation Certificate	Indian River Co.	9/28	54	B. Aikens	Prasad Inmula/FEMA

Training Information: More details @ www.ffma.net

Articles from the Regions

Region 1

New Committee formed in South West Florida Sarasota County Area

There are so many issues on the horizon that we all face on a daily basis as floodplain managers. This past June of 2006, the local CRS coordinators from the Sarasota County area began meeting on some issues for the upcoming Map Modernization Program as well as some Local Mitigation Strategy updates. We soon realized how closely related some of our challenges are. Hence we decided to form yet another organization to help with our current and ongoing floodplain management issues.

So here we go with another government induced acronym "RFMPCC" – "The Regional Floodplain Management Planning and Coordination Committee."

As a result of the efforts of the participants, we have identified the following objectives for consistency in local floodplain management.

OBJECTIVES:

Provide for coordination and communications for area jurisdictions (Cities of Sarasota, North Port, Venice, Town of Longboat Key, Sarasota County and SWFWMD) as they relate to:

- Floodplain Management Planning
- Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group
- National Flood Insurance Program Compliance
- Community Rating System Certification Requirements
- FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map Modernization Program
- Public Outreach and Information Programs
- County Annual Hurricane Flood Preparedness Exposition

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Chair, shall notify committee of schedule, meeting places, times and types (teleconference and meeting rooms), prepare agenda, provide for meeting notes and maintain contact list. In the event the chair is not available, another committee member will assume duties.



Core committee must have a minimum of 3 members present to vote on any direction of the entire committee; in lieu of attendance consensus or opposition in writing will be recorded by chair for record.

Meet objectives in a timely and efficient manner.

MEETINGS:

Will be held the first Thursday of each month
Time 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Teleconferencing and meeting room has been reserved at

Sarasota County Government
1001 Sarasota Center Boulevard
Sarasota, FL 34240

Types of coordinated efforts include a presentation at the Local Mitigation Strategy Plan meeting, Thursday, January 11, 2006. FEMA Region IV, Joe Rachel will demonstrate HAZUS (Hazards US) in coordination with Sarasota County GIS staff to demonstrate both risk and emergency planning as it relates to flooding in our area. Heidi Liles, ISO Specialist, has also been invited to help the newly formed RFMPCC to integrate the many jurisdictions floodplain management plans with the combined LMS for maximum CRS points in an effort to eliminate duplication of efforts as it pertains to hazard mitigation.

The Chair of the committee is Des Companion, CFM, of Sarasota County, and with the ability and willingness to set up the teleconference calls, has saved us time and effort to attend meetings. James Linkogle, CFM, Town of Longboat Key acts as

co-chair as needed. Core Working Group Members also include: Julia Bellia, City of North Port; Gerald (Buster) Chapin, City of Sarasota; Kathleen Weeden, City of Venice.

We are now recognized as a sub-committee to the Sarasota County Local Mitigation Strategy. We plan on using this platform to minimize the individual community involvement in preparing for and accomplishing the upcoming map modernization public outreach requirements. Hopefully at the same time all participating communities can bolster their individual CRS scoring as a result.

For more information contact Des Companion @ 941.861.0802 or James Linkogle @ 941.316.1988.

Region 2

FFMA needs to hear from its Region 2 membership. Please contact your regional coordinators (Mr. Michael Griffin or Ms. Alice Rankeillor) if you have any articles that you would like to include in FFMA Plain Talk.

Region 3

FFMA needs to hear from its Region 3 membership. Please contact your regional coordinators (Mr. Joe Lanier or Mr. Ron Bartel) if you have any articles that you would like to include in FFMA Plain Talk.

Region 4

FFMA needs to hear from its Region 4 membership. Please contact your regional coordinators (Ms. Mary Wingate or Ms. Angela Prymas) if you have any articles that you would like to include in FFMA Plain Talk.

Region 5

News from around Region 5

Contributed by: Frank Skarvelis, CFM, Region 5 Director

Rather than a one-person narrative, we thought we'd try something different in Region 5 and offer the membership some briefs on what's happening all around this portion of "FFMA Land".

As author of this piece, I exercise my right to state my stuff first! On 10/1/06, **Brevard County** improved its **Community Rating System** class to Class 7. Estimates based on total policies-in-force and premiums paid per annum place the savings at around three-quarters of a million dollars per year for its citizens. Unincorporated Brevard now holds the best CRS rating among participating communities in the County. Statewide, we join the eight other Florida counties with ratings of 7 or less, while nationwide, out of 1,049 CRS communities, only 27 counties rate better. Not bad!

From **Penny Post** of **Orange County Stormwater** comes news of their progress under the **Flood Map Modernization** Initiative. They continue working with Watershed Concepts, a prime MMI contractor for FEMA, in producing their new D-FIRM's. Preliminary review is expected to be complete before the end of 2006, and in spite of the seemingly ever-present "technical issues to be resolved", she has hopes for final D-FIRMs, adopted and on-line, by the end of 2007. As of 9/15/06, only 9 Florida counties had effective D-FIRMs, with one other at the preliminary stage. Kudos, Penny!

Donna Bailey, CFM, your other hard working Region 5 Director from **Lake County**, sends word of continuing enhancements to their **Geographic Information System** for flood zone determinations and floodplain management. Using the hyperlink tool of ArcMap, they attach applicable documents to properties in their GIS parcel shapefile. The nature of the documents (many have more than one) is indicated by the color-coded property boundary, to reflect previous determinations, Elevation Certificates and Letters of Map Change, and local revisions. Click on the parcel and the documents are displayed. They also input flood study shapefiles into ArcMap for a more accurate depiction of true flood

hazards. With a few mouse clicks, the pertinent map and database information are dropped into a form template where, with a few keystrokes, a printed determination is issued. Outstanding utility!

Finally, a puzzler from **Jim Williams, CFM**, Floodplain Coordinator for the **City of Palm Bay**. He recently assisted an applicant in filing for a **Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill** for part of a new subdivision in his jurisdiction. Documentation was submitted to reclassify 30 lots in the development, the only 30 that were impacted by a small, isolated, approximate "A" zone. These 30 were (a) part of a larger *proposed* development, (b) the only lots already formally platted, and (c) the only properties for which survey data was submitted in the lot breakdown on the MT-1 Elevation Form. Low and behold, on 10/16/06, the City was issued a LOMR-F Determination Document which (are you ready?) removed every lot, existing or proposed, even those lots which haven't been platted or even permitted for clearing and filling! Think about that, friends. This was not a Conditional Comment Document (CLOMR-F) for the proposed development, nor was it an "OAS" (Out As Shown) determination delineating properties as lying outside the SFHA. Without the benefit of comprehensive topography for the entire development, property which has not been subdivided (and still has citrus groves on it, no less) has apparently been reclassified. Jim was planning on pursuing this with FEMA Region IV. Be sure to flag him down at the Annual Conference and discuss this one. What is the staff at Michael Baker up to?!?

I hope to hear from more Region 5 members for our next newsletter. Perhaps the rigors of preparing for the Holiday season prevented more people from contributing. No problem, as that allows me to add this postscript:

Mary Wingate, CFM, from our neighboring Region 4, dropped me a line from **Monroe County** about their continuing efforts in **Hurricane Recovery**. Even over a year later, Hurricane Wilma's flood toll on the Keys from 5 to 8 foot storm surges is still evident. Pre-FIRM structures apparently took major hits, with permits for repair and renovation still coming in daily. File this under "Lemonade out of Lemons." She reports that at least 50 properties in the unincorporated areas that suffered substantial damage are now elevating. Mary adds that their inspection program for NFIP compliance for enclosures beneath elevated structures is "rocking and rolling." They boast over 1,100 inspections thus far with around 90% compliance. Keep it up, Mary!

Team Access is Available to FFMA Members!

Contributed by : Jack Hampson, CFM, PSB&J, Program Manager South Florida Project

Do you Know About FFMA's Member's Only Area?

If you are a regular user of the FFMA website (<http://www.ffma.net>) you already know about the great resources there, but you may not have clicked on *Members* and found the members area. Or if you have, you may not have actually gone through the portal to the members-only area (by clicking on *Go To FFMA Team Access*). Once you get there, you can save the path to this valuable resource as: <http://ta.ffma.net>. Once there for the first time, just click *Register* to get a password. You will have to already be a member to receive the password. That's it, no credit cards, no 3-day free trials, because you are ALREADY A MEMBER! So you get to use the MEMBER's ONLY area free of any additional charge.

The FFMA MEMBER AREA uses Team Access™ for sharing, storing, and providing information to its members. Team Access is a secure web site providing a portal to information for members, along with meeting schedules and agendas, member contact information, exchange of information regarding project developments, resourceful floodplain management links, and an area for discussion forums to share questions and comments.

You now have full access to the member's area. The links at the top take you to the **Calendar** where you can view and add events; **Contacts** where you can update your information and see other member contact info; **Documents** where you can share and exchange documents such as meeting minutes; **Discussion** where you can start or join an online discussion thread on topics of interest; and **Email** where you can send e-mail out to registered members from the ffma.net account.

The Team Access Help Guide (.pdf) is available, under Links, to assist in using these features and obtaining optimal usage of Team Access.

This site is accessible from anywhere on the Internet, at home or work. Have fun!

So join in, the more members who participate, the better the site!

FFMA's Board and Committees:

Executive Director:
Dr. Krishna Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., P.E., CFM

Current Acting Board Officers are:	
Chairman:	Steve Lienhart, P.E.
Vice Chair:	Blake Guillory, P.E., CFM
Treasurer:	Gordon McClung, P.E.
Secretary:	Teresa Meyer, P.E., CBO, CFM
Past Chair:	Michael Finch, P.E.
Education/ Communication:	
Associate Director:	Brian Mack, P.E.
Membership:	
Associate Director:	Dawn Burkhart, CFM
Legislative:	
Associate Director:	Eugene Henry, AICP, CFM
Regional Coordinators:	
Region 1:	Nancy Witty, CFM G. D. Willie Nabong, P.E., CFM
Region 2:	Michael Griffin, CFM, CBO Alice Rankeillor, P.E., CFM
Region 3:	Joe Lanier Ron Bartel, P.E.
Region 4:	Mary Wingate, CFM Angela Prymas, P.E.
Region 5:	Frank Skarvelis, CFM Donna Bailey, CFM



FFMA Membership Application...I'm Involved, Are You?

NAME: Mr. Ms. _____ TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____ EMAIL _____

CERTIFIED FLOOD PLAIN MANAGER: YES NO

RENEWAL OPTIONS: INDIVIDUAL (\$50/annually) CORPORATE (\$200 [five memberships] annually)

COMMITTEE INTERESTS: Membership, Communication, Education, Conference

Please make checks payable to: Florida Floodplain Managers Association, P.O. Box 2699, Bartow, FL 33831-2699
Federal EIN: 20-2768279

To join FFMA: www.ffma.net. Print membership application form and mail with fee or
Complete this application, fold the self-mailer, include fee and tape closed.

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Place
Stamp
Here

Florida Floodplain Managers Association
P.O. Box 2699
Bartow, FL 33831-2699