



Plain Talk

Vol. 1 No. 1

The Florida Floodplain Managers Association Newsletter for dedicated floodplain professionals

Fall/Winter

The Chair's Zone

I am really excited and very much encouraged about the progress of the Florida Floodplain Managers! Your patience and a lot of hours from your Board have been remarkable over the past 24 months. We have moved from a collection of individuals communicating in an ad hoc fashion to a non-profit Florida corporation with several thousand dollars in the bank. All this has been from members such as you requesting to help and wanting to build a foundation in which floodplain management is practiced and understood within Florida. In addition to our newly founded Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA), we are very close in becoming a Chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Managers. These are remarkable achievements!

The Board's job is to foster this continued growth and communications between our members and partners to promote good floodplain management. To continue with what has been

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Bringing Floodplain Training to Florida is Key Goal of FFMA

Contributed by David Wood, CFM

The field deployed version of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Course, Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program (E-273) was presented at the City of Jacksonville Emergency Operations Center the week of September 22, 2003. The course instructors, Prasad Imula, PhD, P.E. and Susan Wilson, C.F.M. with FEMA Region IV, presented the course material, and added the valuable

experience of FEMA's mitigation professionals. The participants in the class included design professionals, surveyors, and local administrators from inland and coastal communities. The course focused on the NFIP and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinance administration, and the relationship



This flooded structure was demolished the same week the EMI Field Course was held in Jacksonville.

between floodplain management and flood insurance. An opportunity to sit for the Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) exam was offered on September 26, 2003. A total of 15 floodplain management administrators, building inspectors, engineers, and public works officials completed the exam, and are awaiting the results. Many thanks to the staff of the City of Jacksonville's Emergency Operations Center and Watershed Concepts for hosting this event. Prasad Imula, FEMA Region IV

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A World of Opportunities...

Professional Development



December 9, 2003 - *Carrying Out Floodplain Management in Your Community*, Tampa/St. Petersburg area. Bart Frost, Florida Department of Community Affairs Training Officer will conduct the course. Contact FFMA Region 1 Coordinator, Lori O'Hearn at (727) 893-7381 for details.

January 15, 2004 - *Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC), Elevation Certificates and Letters of Map Revision (LOMR)*. Stormwater Department of Public Works, 4200 John Young Parkway, Orlando. Offered by M. Krishnamurthy, FFMA Region 5 Coordinator. Contact Wilma or Jackie at (407) 836-7990.

May 16-21, 2004 - *2004 ASFPM National Conference, Biloxi, Mississippi, Lighting the Way to Floodplain Management*, hosted by Louisiana and Mississippi. For more information visit their web site at <http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/gulfcoast.asp>

May 24-May 28, 2004 - *Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference*. The FFMA will be teaming up with the national Association of Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to organize a tract of training and/or workshops. Conference fees in the past have been \$125. Visit their web site at www.flghc.org for more information.

Check out these web sites for more information and training opportunities...

Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) www.asfpm@floods.org.

Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA) www.ffma.net

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) www.fema.gov.

Check out the October issue of *Watershed News* now online at <http://epa.gov/win/news.html>

Floodplain Training in Jacksonville/Orlando

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reports that the participant's overall rating of the Quality of Content and Quality of Instruction for this course was a 4.8 out of a possible 5.

Seventeen of the 18 participants took the ASFPM Certified Floodplain Manager's Exam at the end of the course.

Orlando News

The same course was offered in Orlando April 21-April 26, 2003, with host M. Krishnamurthy, P.E., CFM reporting that 27 attended with many more turned away due to space limitations. The course was hosted and held at the Orange County Public Works, Division of Stormwater. Many of those attending took the CFM exam, he said, and the passing rate appears to be over 80%. This course is offered periodically at the FEMA Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD. FFMA and its members are working towards bringing the field-deployed version of the course to different FFMA Regions to make it easier for Florida professionals to attend.

More CEC Training for CFMs on Its Way

FFMA Training and Education Committee members are formulating training dates and times to assist Certified Floodplain Manager's in earning the required Continuing Education Credits (CECs) needed to maintain certification. Training and Education Committee members include FFMA Chair, Eugene Henry, AICP, and Regional Coordinators: Lori O'Hearn, Debbie Norton, David Wood, M. Krishnamurth, P.E., Ph.d., Mike Gambino and Debbie Love. All by the way, are CFMs! Watch for more training dates in Florida to be announced soon!

Who's Who in FFMA?

The long overdue organization of a Florida Association for floodplain manager's got underway last year with FFMA's first meeting held in Bartow, Florida. At this time, FFMA Articles of Incorporation are in place, an Acting Board and Board officers are hard at work, five Regional areas and their coordinators have been identified, and Committees and Committee Leaders have been appointed and are busy getting organized and looking for more volunteers. The Board is comprised of: two members from each region, as well as two past Chairpersons, one from the founding group and the past Chair; two board appointed members; a representative from the Florida Department of Community Affairs and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FFMA now has 57 active members and looking for your individual membership and/or corporate membership support. *I'm involved, are you?*



The first well-attended FFMA organizational meeting was held in Bartow. Eugene Henry, AICP, CFM kicks off the successful meeting.

Current Acting Board Officers are:

Chairman: Eugene (Gene) Henry, AICP, CFM, Hillsborough
 Vice Chair: Dawn Burkhart, CFM, Polk County
 Treasurer: Gordon McClung, P.E., South West Florida Water Management District
 Secretary: Cheryl Johnson, CFM,

Other Board members are: M. Krishnamurthy, S. Lienhart, Moris Cabeza, David Wood, Lori O'Hearn, Debbie Love, and Ex Officio members, Charles Speights, Florida Dept. of Community Affairs, and Todd Davidson, FEMA Region IV Director.

Regional Boundaries by County

<u>Region 1</u>	<u>Region 2</u>	<u>Region 3</u>	<u>Region 4</u>	<u>Region 5</u>
Charlotte	Alachua	Bay	Broward	Brevard
Citrus	Baker	Calhoun	Dade	Flagler
Collier	Bradford	Escambia	Indian River	Lake
Desoto	Clay	Franklin	Martin	Marion
Glades	Columbia	Gadsden	Monroe	Orange
Hardee	Dixie	Gulf	Palm Beach	Osceola
Hendry	Duval	Holmes	St. Lucie	Seminole
Hernando	Gilchrist	Jackson		Sumter
Highland	Hamilton	Jefferson		Volusia
Hillsborough	Lafayette	Leon		
Lee	Levy	Liberty		
Manatee	Madison	Okaloosa		
Okeechobee	Nassau	Santa Rosa		
Pasco	Putnam	Wakulla		
Pinellas	St. Johns	Walton		
Polk	Suwannee	Washington		
Sarasota	Taylor	Union		

Want to Get on Board?

Contact Vice Chair/Membership Chair Dawn Burkhart, CFM, Polk County at DawnBurkhart@polk-county.net for more information about becoming a member, joining a committee, serving as a Regional Coordinator or FFMA Board member.

Dawn's Involved! Are you?

Current Regional Coordinators.

Region 1: Lori O'Hearn, CFM
 Region 2: David Wood, CFM
 Region 3: Debbi Norton, CFM
 Region 4: Mike Gambino, CFM; Debbie Love, CFM
 Region 5: M. Krishnamurthy, P.E., PhD., CFM

FFMA Committee leaders are:

Education: Gene Henry, M. Krishnamurthy and all 5 Regional Coordinators
 Membership: Dawn Burkhart and Mike Finch
 Conference: Steve Lienhart and Gordon McClung
 Communications: Moris Cabezas and Marsha Wyant

Picture This... National Stardom



Picture yourself, a professional peer or your community gaining national recognition for floodplain management excellence. It could happen to you!

There is still plenty of time for you to nominate your outstanding local or state program or professional staff member for one of the national awards in excellence in floodplain management that will be awarded during the May 16-21, 2004 – 2004 ASFPM National Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi, *Lighting the Way to Floodplain Management*, hosted by Louisiana and Mississippi.

For more information on how to become a nationally recognized star in floodplain management, visit the ASFPM web site at www.floods.org/Awards/Nominations.asp

About Plain Talk

Send us your floodplain news, mitigation success stories and information about floodplain issues for the next and future issues of FFMA Plain Talk. Please follow these easy guidelines:

1) Submit written identification of all digital photos and identify people in the photos, if possible. Send an accompanying article, where appropriate, preferably in Word.

2) Don't send in web sites as references for newsletter articles. Please send copy from the web site in Word, citing the source, for possible use in the next "Plain Talk" Newsletter. Web sites may be submitted as training/conference sources.

3) Newsletters will be published twice a year: Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer issues. Deadlines for the Fall/Winter issue news items will be Sept. 15, published by Nov. 15 and March 15 for the Spring/Summer issue, published by April 15. Articles may be submitted any time by emailing them to marshajwyant@aol.com. for inclusion in the next newsletter issue.

FFMA Seeks ASFPM Chapter Status

The Acting Board members of the FFMA are actively seeking recognition as a Chapter of the Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM). The FFMA's goal of becoming a Chapter in ASFPM is to promote consistency in floodplain management statewide in Florida. Consistency includes all aspects of floodplain management from regulation compliance to implementation of No Adverse Impact (NAI), one of ASFPM's national goals. Currently ASFPM is reviewing the FFMA Articles of Incorporation to determine whether it is acceptable as a Chapter Constitution in the ASFPM. Recent news from ASFPM indicates that with some minor changes to FFMA's Articles of Incorporation, FFMA will soon become a State Chapter of the ASFPM.

FFMA Web Site Location and Creation Continues

Thanks to the support of PBS&J, an FFMA Corporate Sponsor, the FFMA web site is now hosted and maintained by their professional staff at www.ffma.net. The FFMA web site continues to be developed and updated, so be sure to visit the site often. The FFMA wishes to extend its sincerest thanks and appreciation to Heather Chase for the original web design and Think, Inc. for hosting the founding FFMA web site through www.candleinthedark.org. As with any newly created Association, it takes the support and cooperation of supportive, established organizations such as Think, Inc. to move from its formative beginning to a fully operational Association. Again, FFMA sends its thanks to Think, Inc. for its early web site design and support and to PBS&J for hosting and maintaining the new FFMA web site.

FFMA Sets Tentative Full Membership Meeting

Look for upcoming details on a FFMA full membership meeting tentatively planned for the week of January 15, 2004. All FFMA members will be notified of the exact date, time and location by email, as soon as final details are confirmed by the Board. The membership will have the opportunity to vote on two new board members from those nominated to serve and help determine and plan the future direction and continued growth of FFMA.

FFMA Goals and Objectives

- .. To advance the professional development of the membership through the exchange of ideas, provision of training and promotion of professional standards.
- .. To assist businesses, governments, volunteer organizations and individual citizens in the establishment and maintenance of effective floodplain management programs and services.
- .. To provide forums for sharing ideas and lessons learned for professionals in all disciplines of floodplain management.
- .. To influence public policy on floodplain management at the federal, state and local levels.
- .. To coordinate efforts of the Association with other organizations having similar goals and objectives.
- .. To promote a strong organizational structure through which local and regional governments, voluntary organizations, the private sector, and citizens can best mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from floods.

CFM training for Continuing Education Credits Made Easy

Contributed by Dawn Burkhart, CFM

The Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA) is working to identify, and provide, training to Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) for Continuing Education Credits (CECs). At this time, however, FFMA has no set schedule, but read on there is CEC training available now.

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) does offer training through an online service for CFMs and Plans Examiners (and more). Additionally, FFMA members are able to offer training for the above as well. For information about the online course, please see the info below:

The following is excerpted from the ASFPM newsletter:

Discount of 10% to CFMs through RedVector

ASFPM encourages you to take advantage of a new, exciting opportunity to acquire your CECs. An ASFPM logo will appear next to RedVector course offerings for which the ASFPM CFM Program awards CECs. RedVector handles all course registration, payment and completion requirements directly, with fees depending on the number of credit hours. You don't even have to submit a CEC Verification Form to the ASFPM Office - RedVector will report the successful completion of courses to ASFPM directly, so your CECs are posted automatically. And best of all, a special ASFPM referral coupon provides you with a 10% discount, which can also be passed on to your peers! When you are registering for the course, type "ASFPM" in the space for "referral coupon" number at "check out", and you will receive the 10% discount.

ASFPM Gets 10% Commission through RedVector Courses

The ASFPM referral coupon not only provides you with a 10% discount, but also provides ASFPM with a 10% commission. So be sure to use the referral code when you register... its like contributing to the Association without writing a check!

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started, a training curriculum is being established for training events to be held throughout the state. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region IV, has provided untiring support to FFMA in terms of resources for training and informational meetings. FEMA Region IV's assistance has helped FFMA target a curriculum to use throughout Florida to educate floodplain managers, contractors, and other FFMA partners. As we move forward, your input and voice becomes even greater in deciding how we will continue to establish a platform in which floodplain management practices are to be strengthened in meeting the demands in one of the fastest growing State's in the nation. FFMA also has a growing tie with the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management, offering a great future partnership! Your current Board has poured their souls into the Association during the past two years. With the help of Kurt Spitzer, KSA, Inc.. FFMA has working By Laws and Articles of Incorporation. FFMA could not have become a reality without his help! It is time to begin moving into the next phase; electing some new Board of Directors! You are called into action and asked to submit nominees for Director positions.

Without you, our members, the FFMA would not exist nor continue to move forward. The Board and Regional Coordinators greatly appreciate your help in creating a uniform and holistic approach in managing every aspect of Florida floodplains, across every discipline. In closing, Thank You!

Eugene Henry, FFMA Chair

FFMA Membership Application

I'm Involved, Are You?

NAME _____ TITLE _____ ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____ EMAIL _____

CHECK/P.O. NUMBER _____ INDIVIDUAL (\$50 Annually) _____ (AMOUNT PAID)

INTERESTED IN CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP/SPONSOR _____

Contact: Dawn Burkhart at (863) 534-6767 for Corporate Rates, Sponsorship details or other information about FFMA.

Complete application, clip and mail to:

Florida Floodplain Managers Association, 2721 Magnolia Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33813



PLACE POSTAGE HERE

Florida Floodplain Managers Association
2721 Magnolia Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33813