



Plain Talk

NEWSLETTER

The Florida Floodplain Managers Association Newsletter for
Dedicated Floodplain Professionals

Vol. 1 No. 2:

Spring/Summer 2004

The Chair's Zone

Since February a lot has happened within FFMA. The ASFPM Conference in Biloxi was well attended with 80 people from Florida, several people took advantage of our Scholarship opportunity for reimbursement. We are still giving out free memberships for those that qualify, we had 150 available, to date approximately 110 are still available. I encourage everyone to let their friends and fellow employees in the floodplain management business know about the memberships and to become involved. Become actively involved, go online at <http://www.ffma.net/> and look at the "contact us" area to see what committees are available. Give us your ideas and suggestions for outreach and training, let us know what is working and not working in your communities.

Michael D. Finch, P.E.
FFMA Executive Committee
Chairman

Annual Meeting

The Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA) held its first annual membership meeting on February 19, 2004 in St. Petersburg, FL. The conference was a wonderful success with 134 attendees. The registration and conference desk opened from 8:00-11:00 with a continental breakfast. The conference opened with a welcome address from Mayor Rick Baker of the City of St. Petersburg. The program consisted of "Floodplain Management Program and Collaboration with FEMA" by Todd Davison, FEMA, "Community Assistance



Programs" by Brad Loar, FEMA Region IV and "Map Modernization Initiative" by Todd Davison. The morning session was completed with Frank Koutnik, Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Bureau Chief discussing the Community Rating System, and Charles Speights and Sonya Murray discussing the DCA Interface to FEMA Programs and the

Outreach Initiative. The annual business meeting began with election of officers and a technical session with a Floodplain Management Roundtable.

News from the State Assistance Office for the National Flood Insurance and Flood Mitigation Assistance Programs

Contributed by Charles Speights

This past spring has been very active and productive for the State Assistance Office for the National Flood Insurance and Flood Mitigation Assistance Programs. The office, with the help of its public-private partners, has achieved established goals and seeks new opportunities as we enter the 2004 Hurricane Season.

Inside this issue...

NFIP & FMAP	Page 1
DFIRM Mapping Tools	Page 3
FEMA/State Activities	Page 3
FFMA Training	Page 4
CRS	Page 4
Membership	Page 5

During the spring, the staff was heavily involved in attending and making presentations at association conferences and professional development activities. Although these association conferences and professional development activities were important; however, the state assistance office staff also conducted other significant flood loss reduction work plan activities that are designed to make Florida a better place to call home.

The Community Assistance Program-State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) is one of the work plans that the staff implements. It consists of six components- Training, Community Compliance, Technical Assistance, Coordination, Disaster Response, and Strategic Planning Requirements.

The program year started with a full calendar of state-wide Training events. To date, we have provided a total of 28 workshops: 8 workshops based on "A Local Official's Guide to Implementing the National Flood



Insurance Program in Florida," 4 workshops on Floodways and the Floodplain Management Regulations applicable to them; 8 workshops on Map Amendments and/or

Elevation Certificates and; 8 Realtors Workshops. In preparation for the Fiscal Year 2005, we are seeking request for workshops.

In Community Compliance, our staff will be conducting 110 Community Assistance Visits (CAVs) and Community Assistance Contacts (CACs) this year. These CACs and CAVs will enable our office to assess the effectiveness of the local government's administration and enforcement of its floodplain management regulations. Additionally, the CACs and CAVs provide an opportunity to maintain periodic contact with local governments participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) so that our office may provide technical assistance and coordination, as necessary. We will reach out and touch one out of four NFIP participating communities in Florida this year.

Throughout the year, state staff provide Technical Assistance to residents, builders, insurance agents, developers, architects, realtors, surveyors, local governments and others. State staff responds and gets the word out through site presentations, telephone calls, conference calls, e-mail responses, facsimiles, field visits, office visits and letters. We're here to help.



Coordination is a key element in the NFIP. The state assistance office for the NFIP will conduct quarterly coordination meetings with numerous federal, state and local agencies-such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Environmental Protection, the

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and water management districts.

Disaster response is what we do when natural or man-made disasters occur. The state assistance office, as part of the Division of Emergency Management, maintains a constant level of readiness to ensure that the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) is prepared to and capable of responding to disasters, recovering from them and mitigating their impact.

We are also in the process of reviewing the Department of Community Affairs and other state plans to identify potential issues/problems for inclusion into the upcoming FY'05, Floodplain Management Strategic Plan and its implementing CAP-SSSE.

The other work plan that the staff implements relates to the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, which is soliciting applications to retrofit repetitively flooded structures. The deadline was June 30, 2004, to submit an E (electronic)-Grant application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 funding. If you missed this opportunity to submit your grant application, we will be opening another funding cycle next year. Stay tuned for announcements as to when the cycle will be open. The importance of the strategy for enhancing outreach to communities with targeted repetitive loss properties will be shortly evidenced when the Federal Emergency Management Agency implements the recently enacted "Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenaur Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004", on severe repetitive loss properties. The legislation authorizes \$40 M annually for a pilot program to mitigate the nation's most severe repetitive loss structures. The legislation also authorizes increases in flood insurance premiums to actuarial rates, if the owner of the repetitive loss property refuses an offer of a grant to mitigating the structure.

The state assistance office has provided the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IV with a proposal to better leverage the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program and the state general revenue funded Residential Construction Mitigation Program (RCMP), which is directed toward wind retrofits. As most

are aware, the two leading causes of Florida’s natural disasters are water and wind. Therefore, leveraging these two programs is crucial to making Florida a better place to call home.

Staff of the State Assistance Office for the National Flood Insurance and Flood Mitigation Assistance Programs is available to assist with any questions or concerns you may have on floodplain management or flood mitigation activities. Please feel free to contact Charles Speights, Administrator, by telephone at 850-413-9959, or E-mail Charles.Speights@dca.state.fl.us, or any of the other staff members.

Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Mapping Tools: Automating towards a “Make Map” button

Contributed by Mark Aurit

These days technology is taking us to a place where most everything we do is automated and made easier by the press of a button. We can now pay our bills online, send letters across the world in a second through email, and have phone conversations regardless of where we are (more or less). So why should the world of flood mapping be any different? It too is working its way toward an automatic “make map” button.

Two of the leading innovators in the DFIRM world are the recent Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Service Provider (NSP), Michael Baker Corporation and the former Map Coordination Contractor for the Central United States, PBS&J. Both of these companies have taken a great initiative to take the world of DFIRMs to a higher, once only envisioned level. Both are creating tools designed to quickly and easily update and produce DFIRMs that meet FEMA specifications.



The NSP now offers GEOPOP and A/OL DFIRM production tools. GEOPOP helps to create a personal database that is DFIRM compliant and has tools that

allow the database to be populated. A/OL allows work

maps to be batch plotted from the GEOPOP-created database. These tools are available through FEMA’s Management Information Portal (MIP).

PBS&J has its own DFIRM Tools. With just a few clicks one can produce a standard DFIRM layout, have custom map user notes and title block, update base maps, include DOQs, and customize a frame with map print size, legends, and special notes. A new version of this tool works with the ESRI Geodatabase DFIRM model instead ESRI’s previous coverage data model. This new release also includes the new Model and Map Agreement Tool (MAMA Tool), which is designed to decrease the amount of time that it takes to compare the mapped cross section information with that in the model output. In addition, it includes a suite of tools that allows for the underlying data to be continually checked and made ready to be submitted to FEMA as a new Standard DFIRM Database.

These tools are bringing us closer and closer to the “make map” button. They are available by request as ArcMap 8.3 extensions.

For more information on PBS&J DFIRM Tools Version 2 contact Mark Aurit at 1-800-282-477-7275 x480 or mdaurit@pbsj.com.

To request Michael Baker Corporation’s GEOPOP and A/OL tools go to <http://www.hazards.gov/resources/dfirm.htm>

FEMA/State Floodplain Management Activities in Florida 2004

Contributed by Brad Loar

FEMA begins its 36th year working with the floodplain management aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program in Florida. Here are our initiatives for 2004



1. Training-week long field delivered Floodplain Management Courses
2. Workshops-realtors, lenders, insurance agents, contractors and building officials
3. Technical Assistance
4. Community Rating System-advance community classification
5. Community Compliance Visits
6. Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board MOU

7. Dept. of Business and Professional Regulation Training
8. Water Management Districts engagement
9. Map Modernization
10. Submit For Rate
11. Monroe County Insurance Inspection Program
12. Capturing Success Stories
13. Repetitive Loss Property Field Verification – finding and documenting using digital photography/GPS
14. Assist new Florida Floodplain Managers Association

Questions concerning these should be directed to Brad Loar, Chief Floodplain Management Branch 770-220-5416

FFMA Training Course: Managing Development in the Floodplain

Contributed by Theresa Meyer

The Florida Floodplain Management Association is pleased to be hosting this four and one half-day course, normally offered at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This FEMA EMI course “Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP” is scheduled to be taught in Tampa the first week in August.

This course is essential for anyone who has the responsibility for administering local floodplain ordinances including building inspectors, enforcement and zoning officials, planners, engineers and public works officials. It focuses on both the theoretical and practical aspects of floodplain management. Students will learn to read and interpret FEMA floodplain maps, flood insurance studies for ordinance administration as well as listen to a discussion on the relationship between floodplain management and the National Flood Insurance Program. The exam for CFM certification will also be given on the last day of the course.

Further application information for both the course and/or CFM exam can be found at the FFMA Website www.ffma.net or contact Theresa Meyer at Theresa.Meyer@Tampagov.net.

Course: “Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP”

When: August 2 –6, 2004

Where: Net Park, 5701 East Hillsborough Ave., Tampa, Florida

Cost: \$50.00

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

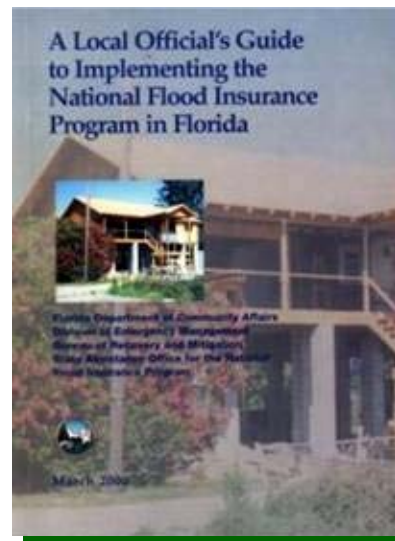
What’s New with the Community Rating System (CRS)?

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



CURRENT ISSUES

Elevation Certificates (Activity 310).



The ISO/CRS Specialists are finding the same errors when sampling EC visit after visit. Maintaining EC for all new and substantially improved construction in the floodplain is a requirement to be in the CRS and their accuracy is the responsibility of the community. Because it is so important that the EC be correct for rating policies, FEMA has asked

ISO to review EC even closer than we have in the past.

Drainage System Maintenance (Activity 540).

Expect some changes in the way the drainage maintenance program is verified in the future. Specific attention will be paid to how private drainage systems are maintained in addition to new development. Contact your CRS Specialist for more details.

Recertifications. Unless your community is due for a (3) year or (5) year cycle this year, expect Recertification forms to be mailed around the end of August. Every community in the CRS not scheduled for a (3) or (5) year cycle is required to submit a Recertification annually.

The AW 214 Recertification Form, signed by the CEO, should be returned to your ISO/CRS Specialist no later than October 1. Be sure to include supporting documentation for those activities that require it. The purpose of the Recertification is to certify that the community is continuing to implement the activities for which they are currently receiving credit. If you have any questions about Recertification process, contact your ISO/CRS Specialist.

CRS Coordinator's Manual. There will be a new CRS Coordinators Manual in 2005. We expect it to be ready for mailing to CRS Coordinators in early 2005.

ISO/CRS Specialists. The CRS in the State of Florida is forever expanding. We currently have 210 communities in the CRS and expect more new applicants in 2004. Because of this growth and reassignment of some territories, Ms Heidi Liles, CFM and Ms. Sherry Harper, CFM, AICP were hired as ISO/CRS Specialists in 2003. Both were well experienced with the NFIP and CRS when hired as they were CRS Coordinators for their respective county governments.

New Communities and Class Improvements. We congratulate the following communities for successfully applying to the Community Rating System in 2003:
 City of Palm Beach Gardens, Class 9, Effective 10/1/03
 City of Palm Coast, Class 7, Effective 5/1/04
 Village of Wellington, Class 9, Effective 10/1/03

We congratulate the following communities for improving their classifications in 2003:

Effective 5/1/04:

Charlotte County from a Class 6 to a Class 5.
 City of Destin, from Class 8 to a Class 7.

Effective 10/1/03:

City of Gulport, from Class 8 to a Class 7.
 City of Melbourne, from Class 9 to a Class 8.
 Miami-Dade County, from Class 6 to a Class 5.
 Osceola County, from Class 8 to a Class 7.
 Polk County, from Class 8 to a Class 7.
 City of Temple Terrace, from Class 9 to a Class 8.
 Volusia County, from Class 8 to a Class 7.

Membership

Contributed by Dawn Burkhart

The FFMA has grown to over 301 members, both individual and corporate. This number includes 28 members joining under the sponsorship provided through a technical assistance grant from the State of Florida, Department of Community Affairs providing

funding for 150 complimentary one-year memberships in the FFMA. These memberships are encouraged for local governments and the Miccosukee and Seminole Indian Nations. Please visit our website at www.ffma.net and select the free membership offer to apply.

FFMA's New Executive Director

Dr. Krishna Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., P.E., CFM, works in Orange County, Florida, as the Manager of Stormwater Division in the Public Works Department. He serves as the NFIP and CRS coordinator for Orange County. For the past 17 years, he has lead a team of engineers who have undertaken stormwater retrofit projects costing over \$50 million. Dr. Krishnamurthy is a Professional Engineer registered in the States of Florida and Maryland. He is also a Certified Flood Plain Manager and a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers.



Current Acting Board Officers are:

- Chairman: Michael Finch, P.E.
- Vice Chair: Moris Cabezas, Ph.D., P.E., CFM
- Treasurer: Gordon McClung, P.E.
- Secretary: David Wood, P.E

Education Committee:

- Eugene Henry, AICP, CFM
- Lorie O'Hearn, CFM
- M. Krishnamurthy, P.E., Ph.D., CFM
- David Wood, CFM

Membership Committee:

- Dawn Burkhart, CFM
- Michael Finch, P.E.

Conference Committee:

- Gordon McClung, P.E.
- Steve Lienhart, P.E.

Communications:

- Marsha Wyant, CFM
- Moris Cabezas, P.E., Ph.D., CFM
- Cheryl Johnson, P.E., CFM

Regional Coordinators:

- Region 1: Teresa Meyers, P.E., CBO, CFM
Ron Giovannelli
- Region 2: Kenya Brown
Michael Fay
- Region 3: Debbie Norton, CFM
Ron Bartel
- Region 4: Debbie Love, CFM
Mike Gambino, CFM
- Region 5: Brian Mack, P.E.
M. Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., P.E., CFM



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, fold the self-mailer and tape closed.

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Place
Stamp
Here

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