

KANSAS

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



October 2011

Kansas Association For Floodplain Management Annual Conference

The 2011 Kansas Association for Floodplain Management (KAFM) Conference took place Sept. 7-8 at the Clarion Hotel in Manhattan. Conference participants who registered with payment by Aug. 5 received Midland Weather Radios.

After the opening speakers, the conference began with a risk map presentation by Rick Sacbbit followed by six break-out sessions. Topics included grandfather rules, preferred risk policy extension, floodproofing, best management practices-NPDES, Floodplain 101, Community Rating System, record keeping and Risk Maps.

On next page are photos taken at this year's conference. Plan to attend next year!

In this newsletter...

- KAFM
- Minor Development
- Reasonably Safe From Floods
- Training Opportunities



Alicia Benson reads conference Brochure.



Erika Stanley visiting the DWR exhibit.



Rachel Sears speaking on NFIP Reform.



Rick Sacibit speaking on RISK Map



Steve Samuelson displaying emergency kit.



Tom Morey teaching Floodplain 101.



Attendees enjoying the free lunch buffet.

Minor Development Exemptions

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) defines development as any man-made change to improved or unimproved property. The NFIP allows floodplain managers discretion when determining whether certain types of developments are minor and do not need a permit. This is discussed in more detail on page 5-18 of the “Floodplain Management Requirements,” *National Flood Insurance Program, Floodplain Management Requirements, A Study Guide and Desk Reference for Local Officials* (FEMA 480). Farming, gardening and mailbox posts, for example, are small projects that can be exempted.

Along with specific examples of small projects, FEMA 480 also recommends including minor exemptions in the community’s floodplain management ordinance or resolution to reduce misunderstanding. If not covered in an ordinance, minor exemptions also might be covered in written administrative procedures.

A fence is an example of a situation with documented exemptions in the written regulations to resolve conflicts. Some communities may not require a no rise certificate by an engineer for a barbed wire farm fence in a floodway. Those same communities should require no rise certification for a larger wooden fence that could obstruct flood flows. To some property owners the difference may not be clear: “a fence is a fence,” they might say.

Several communities have specifically exempted things like re-roofing, re-siding, plowing, and storage sheds or playground equipment less than 80 square feet in their regulations. They may do this as long as the shed or equipment is not in the floodway, anchored and more than 10’ from a property line. Putting these exemptions in writing will help eliminate misunderstand when a property owner wants to build a 10’x 10’ shed with a foot print of 100 square feet and is required to have a permit.

Property owners may consider unwritten exemption rules to be arbitrary if they perceive that the rules are made up by floodplain managers on a case-by-case basis. Taking time to write specific exemptions and making them accessible will eliminate problems later.

The Division of Water Resources has model language for higher regulatory standards that includes language for exemption of minor projects. The floodplain team also has created a basic set of written administrative procedures that can be used as a building block for a community to create its own procedures. To request the sample higher regulatory language or the written administrative procedures, contact Steve Samuelson at 785-296-4622 or steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov .

“Reasonably Safe From Flooding” Defined

“Reasonably safe from flooding” is a term found in documents from FEMA and also community ordinances and resolutions. How is reasonably safe from flooding defined? Reasonably safe from flooding means base flood waters will not inundate the land or damage structures to be removed from the special flood hazard area and that any subsurface waters related to the base flood will not damage existing or proposed buildings.

When a developer wants to bring in fill and do a Letter of Map Revision based on fill (LOMR-F) a community official is required to acknowledge that the site is reasonably safe from flooding. The definition includes subsurface water and proposed buildings. Because of those requirements, some communities will sign off on a LOMR-F but will not allow a building with a basement to be built on that fill area at any later date. Those communities track the LOMR-F areas using their Geographic Information System (GIS) or permitting system.

The model floodplain management ordinances and resolutions provided to communities by Division of Water Resources contain a definition of the term reasonably safe from flooding. Determining that a development is reasonably safe from flooding is the first step in the process of approving any floodplain development permit.

Training Opportunities

The Floodplain Management Program will host the following training sessions throughout Kansas. If you are interested in any of the no-cost training opportunities, please contact Tom Morey at 785-296-5440 or Steve Samuelson at 785-296-4622. A training registration form is in this newsletter.

Post Flood Responsibilities

This class is intended for community officials responsible for administering floodplain management regulations. The course focuses on what to do during and after a disaster event. Topics include substantial damage, permitting, Increased Cost of Compliance, and violations. Approved 3.5 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20 participants.

- Newton– December 7, 2011 8:30am-12:30pm

Basics of the National Flood Insurance Program

This is for officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. Focus will be on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinance administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance. Approved 3.5 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20.

- Salina– October 13, 2011 8:30am-12:30pm
- El Dorado--October 11, 2011 8:30am-12:30pm

Elevation Certificates and Letters Of Map Amendment

This class is designed for community officials responsible for administering floodplain management as well as surveyors and engineers who complete Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) and Elevation Certificate forms. The course will focus on accurate completion of FEMA technical forms, building diagrams and base flood elevation. Approved 3.5 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20 participants.

- Russell – December 6, 2011, 8:30am-12:30pm

Email saves money on postage. The electronic newsletter also has links and photos are in color. If you are getting this newsletter by postal mail and would prefer email, please contact alicia.benson@kda.ks.gov.

The Division of Water Resources newsletter "Currents" can be read online at:
<http://www.ksda.gov/dwr/content/314>

Mark your calendar: The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management 2012 conference will be September 5 and 6 in Hutchinson. More information will be posted at the website www.ekafm.org. Registration will be done through a link on the website. If you have questions about registration, please contact Jon Bristor, Treasurer, at 620-326-2207.

Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
Floodplain Program
Training Registration Form

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Name, date and location of training you will attend _____

*Please share this invitation with anyone else who could benefit from the training.

**Classroom locations will be sent to registered participants one week before the training.

Please mail or fax your registration to:

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
109 SW 9th STREET, 2nd FLOOR
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1283
Fax to: (785) 296-1176

If you have questions about training, please contact Steve Samuelson by email at steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov or by phone 785-296-4622, or contact Tom Morey at tom.morey@kda.ks.gov and 785-296-5440.

Please help us keep our records current. If the name that appears on this newsletter is for an individual no longer with your organization, please call (785) 296-7769, or send an e-mail to alicia.benson@kda.ks.gov

046-17
Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
Floodplain Management
109 SW 9th St 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1283

ASFPM 2012 National Conference in Texas

The 2012 Association of State Floodplain Managers National Conference will be May 20-25, 2012 in San Antonio, Texas. This conference is an excellent opportunity for floodplain managers to receive training on mapping technologies, regulations, permitting, outreach and best practices. It is estimated the conference will be attended by over 1,000 floodplain management professionals. This conference is great chance to meet people and to learn more about floodplain topics.

Funds may become available to provide financial assistance to community officials in Kansas so they can attend the ASFPM conference. Contact Tom Morey for more information.

KDA/DWR Water Structures Floodplain Program Staff

Tom Morey, CFM, RS, NFIP Coordinator	(785) 296-5440	tom.morey@kda.ks.gov
Erika Stanley, Floodplain Mapping Specialist	(785) 296-2513	erika.stanley@kda.ks.gov
Steve Samuelson, CFM, NFIP Specialist	(785) 296-4622	steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov
Alicia Benson, CFM, Floodplain Coordinating Assoc.	(785) 296-7769	alicia.benson@kda.ks.gov

Mailing Address:
109 SW 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1283
Fax: (785) 296-4835

www.ksda.gov/dwr