

KANSAS FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



October 2012

Kansas Association for Floodplain Management Hosts Annual Conference

The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management (KAFM) hosted its annual conference September 5 and 6 in Hutchinson. The conference provided information on traditional topics and new topics, including stormwater management, flood cleanup and use of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR).

Keynote speaker Chad Berginnis, executive director of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), gave an update on the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The legislation, which was signed by President Obama in July 2012, will reform NFIP and could mean changes for citizens of Kansas who have flood insurance.

Reform to NFIP included loss of PreFIRM subsidized insurance rates for many classes of homes, new criteria for flood mapping and new regulations effecting future substantial damage estimations. While the legislation has been signed into law, FEMA has not yet written enacting rules and regulations. More information about the NFIP reauthorization will be issued in coming months.

The conference also offered an opportunity to network with other professionals involved in floodplain management through events such as an evening social at the Cosmosphere with IMAX film *Tornado Alley* and vendor booths.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources had a booth that provided information related to water structures permits and on floodplain management and FEMA safe home models.

To learn more about KAFM or the conference visit the website www.kafm.org.

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Above: Chad Berginnis on NFIP Reform.



Above: Dane Bailey at Kansas Floodplain Management booth

Development Without Permits

Motocross track, rubble pile, aggregate stockpiles, oil and gas equipment, bridge, pond — all these developments were photographed in special flood hazard areas in Kansas and require development permits from the community. Development that occurs in a community's regulatory floodplain without a permit not only violates the community's floodplain management regulations, it can pose a safety risk to others and cause other problems.

The first step in correcting violations is to contact the property owner. Try to arrange a meeting with the property owner to discuss ways to bring the property in to compliance. In many cases, property owners already have permits approved through Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources. That permit information can be used in getting approval for the local permit. In other cases, property owners returned the property to the original condition or provided enough information so that the community was able to issue an after the fact permit.



Floodplains Offer Numerous Natural and Beneficial Functions

Did your last meal include Kansas-grown agricultural products? Have you ever been fishing, hiking or bird watching? Do you like clear, clean drinking water? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you have probably benefited from a floodplain.

When floodplain managers refer to a floodplain, they usually mean the floodplain associated with the special flood hazard areas shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Floodplains have existed much longer than Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps. The term floodplain more properly refers to the flat, low-lying area of land next to a stream, river or coastal area that was created by periodic flooding.

Floodplains provide many naturally-occurring beneficial functions. Floodplain managers know that floodplains store and convey floodwaters. Floodplain areas that are kept as open space soak up floodwaters and help reduce flooding in developed areas. Floodplains naturally store floods.

Floodplains also filter sediment to prevent it from entering streams and control stream bank erosion. Sediment deposited onto floodplains during floods creates good soil for agricultural uses, forestry and a diversity of habitats in floodplain areas that support wildlife.

Important for the supply and quality of water, floodplains recharge groundwater and regulate flows. The floodplain helps maintain water quality through filtration of impurities and processing of organic waste.

The list of benefits provided by floodplains could also include many historical, economic, scientific and recreational uses. In spite of the many benefits of floodplains, some people only see floodplains as wasted space waiting to be developed. A challenge floodplain managers face is getting community officials to see the overall value of the floodplain. It can be difficult to



Above: A bald eagle perched in a tree in a Kansas floodplain.

accurately assign a dollar value to the benefits a floodplain provides. Floodplains are much more valuable than many people realize.

Training Opportunities

The Floodplain Management Program will host the following free 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 free 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.

- Osage City - Oct. 24, 2012, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Elevation Certificates and Letters Of Map Amendment

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

- Marion - Oct. 17, 2012, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Bonner Springs - Dec. 6, 2012, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Flood Mapping and Data Products

This two-part class will provide a basic overview of floodplain mapping concepts followed by a more in-depth look at using flood risk data in ArcGIS. The first portion of the class is aimed at floodplain administrators, GIS personnel and other officials that use floodplain maps with or without GIS software. The second part is aimed toward GIS users. Each session 2 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20 participants.

- Emporia - Nov. 1, 2012, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team (KHMT) was selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Silver Jackets program of the year at the 2012 National Silver Jackets Workshop. Tom Morey, Kansas Department of Agriculture, and Jake Gray, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, lead the KHMT.

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

The Salina Seminar Series 2013 is a conference sponsored by the Kansas Society of Land Surveyors, Inc. The conference is approved for 14 Continuing Education Credit hours by the Association of State Floodplain Managers. A flyer about the conference will be sent with the email version of this newsletter.

Mark your calendar for the 2013 Kansas Association for Floodplain Management that will be held September 4 and 5 in Topeka. More information will be posted at the website www.kafm.org. Registration will be available on the KAFM website. If you have questions about registration, please contact Jon Bristor 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 785-296-4622, or send an e-mail to steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov to report the change.

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Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
Floodplain Management
109 SW 9th St 2nd Floor
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ASFPM 2013 National Conference in Connecticut

The 2013 Association of State Floodplain Managers National Conference will be June 9-14, 2013, in Hartford, Connecticut. 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 more than 1,200 floodplain management professionals. This conference is great chance to network with other floodplain professionals and to learn the latest news in floodplain management. Funds may become available to subsidize attendance at this conference. Contact Tom Morey at tom.morey@kda.ks.gov and 785-296-5440 to inquire about available scholarships.

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