

KANSAS FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT TIPS



October 2023

KAFM Conference 2023

The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management held its annual conference on August 29-31 at the Kansas Star Hotel & Event Center in Mulvane. Floodplain managers attended presentations given by the KDA-DWR Floodplain Team who presented on various Floodplain 101 topics such as mapping, calculating base flood elevations, permitting and construction, as well as substantial damage and improvement, and how to prepare for an audit. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had sessions on how to dry floodproof a non-residential building with Martin Koch, and how to develop a substantial damage plan with Todd Tucker. A presentation on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding opportunities was presented by Jennifer Henggeler, while Stephanie Goodman with KDEM presented on Kansas funding opportunities. Attendees also learned about innovative approaches to urban flooding from Thomas Kimes with PEC, a flood risk reduction project in St. Mary's by, Joe File with Benesch,

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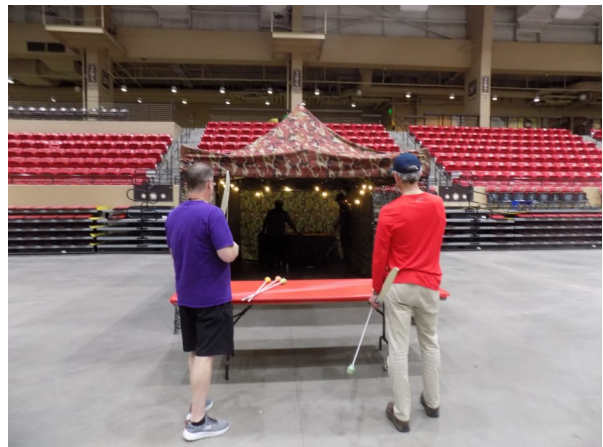
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Successful exam takers receive their CFM pins



Kelly Dixon presents on compliance



Attendees enjoy archery at social event

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the past, present, and future of floodways by Ben Rufenacht with WSP, as well as certifying compliance for a structure constructed in the floodplain with Kelly Dixon, the floodplain administrator for Sedgwick County. Additional experts presented on 2D watershed modeling, navigating mitigation projects for federal disaster declaration response, and mitigation action using 2D HEC-RAS software. Evening events included entertainment by Allisons Fun, Inc. with mini golf, basketball, archery, bag toss games, and more. The next KAFM conference will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Lawrence in August 2024. Follow updates here: www.kafm.org/

CRS Plaque Presentations

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program through FEMA that rewards communities with discounts on flood insurance in exchange for reducing flood damage to insurable property, strengthening the aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and fostering comprehensive floodplain management. Communities may inquire about the application process to the KDA-DWR Floodplain Team and find more information about the program here: <https://crsresources.org/>. As part of the CRS program, plaques are awarded to participating communities to reflect the work they have done to make their communities more resilient to flood risk.

The CRS program operates on a system in which communities earn points for various activities such as keeping the floodplain as open space, adopting a mitigation plan, education and outreach, and adopting higher regulatory standards into their floodplain management ordinance. KDA-DWR can assist communities with many of these activities in order to earn points, and many times what a community is



City of Topeka accepts CRS plaque



Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City accept CRS plaque

already doing is enough to enter CRS at a Class 9. A minimum of 500 points is required for each class level, and there is a 5% discount on insurance premiums as you move up in class.

Kansas is a leader in the number of CRS communities within our region with 47 participating communities. Some recent CRS news includes the City of Topeka joining the program, and Kansas City moving up in class. Kansas City and Topeka were presented with plaques in the month of August by State NFIP Coordinator, Tara Lanzrath. The plaque acknowledges the steps they have taken to make their communities safer, and thereby help citizens receive discounts on flood insurance.

Topeka has entered the program at a Class 9, earning their citizens a 5% discount, while Kansas City has progressed in the program to a Class 6, earning their citizens a 20% discount for policies at their actuarial rate. The presentation of a plaque is an opportunity to demonstrate to citizens that community staff are going above and beyond to earn residents' insurance discounts and make the community safer.

Staff Changes and Opportunities

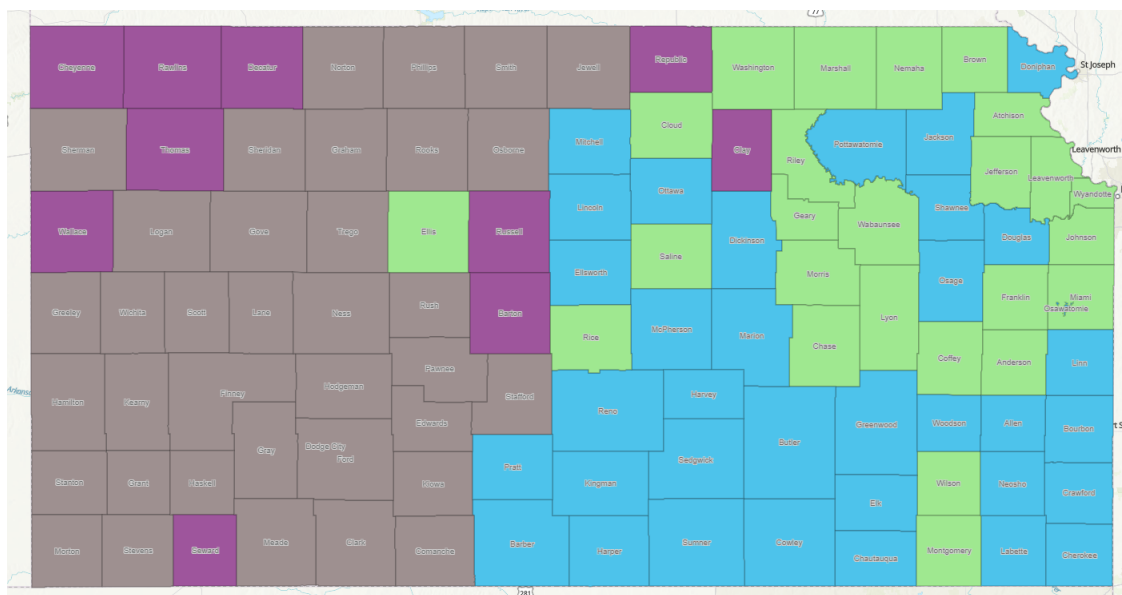
After a year of service, Patrick Bonine has left KDA-DWR to pursue new opportunities back in his home state of Wyoming. KDA-DWR has taken this opportunity to revamp the position from a Floodplain Mapping Specialist to that of a Floodplain Outreach Specialist (FOS) that will soon be open to applicants. The FOS will work as part of a team to complete work related to both the mapping and NFIP programmatic aspects of floodplain management for the state. Work activities include Geographic Information System (GIS) tasks, pre-meeting outreach, conducting Community Assistance Contacts (CACs), public speaking, attendance at meetings, taking minutes, and planning sessions with contractors, communities, and other government agencies.

The FOS will serve as a technical expert in providing Base Flood Elevation (BFE) determinations and GIS products upon request to contractors and the public. The FOS also answers verbal and written queries and works to resolve issues. The person selected will also assist with conducting floodplain audit activities for floodplain management programs of individual communities. This consists of meeting with communities to discuss all aspects of their program and addressing any deficiencies or violations. The FOS will use GIS to identify structures that are impacted by changes to the floodplain as mapping projects progress, as well as create maps for individual communities relating to their participation in the CRS program. The FOS will also assist with training in floodplain mapping and NFIP subjects at various times throughout the year, including meetings and conferences. If not already a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM), the FOS is expected to take and pass the CFM exam within one year from their start date.

This is a unique opportunity to work with a highly functioning team while learning and working in all aspects of floodplain management, please share widely with potential applicants. See the full posting, description, and how to apply [Here](#).

New Interactive Floodplain Tools

KDA-DWR is working towards creating an interactive online webmap that consolidates all ongoing floodplain mapping projects. Users will be able to click on their county to obtain project information rather than navigating the project page, which is organized by watershed. This is meant to provide ease of access for those inquiring about the status and progress of their maps in one place. All ongoing project statuses will be available, and the user will be able to see projected timelines for the effective dates of mapping projects. The interactive map will have links to project pages and web maps showing the draft floodplain mapping where available. Updates and announcements to come as progress is made toward finalization of this new tool, which will be accessible from the Mapping Projects website at: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain/mapping/mapping-projects>.



Draft interactive mapping tool

Training Opportunities

How to Issue a Floodplain Permit

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is offering a free virtual training designed for community officials and covers the process of completing and reviewing a local floodplain development permit. This class will feature a demonstration of the new prototype for the Smart PDF template floodplain development permit. It will be interactive to assist the floodplain administrator in determining permitting requirements for specific types of development. This class is approved for 1 Continuing Education Credit (CEC) toward the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) credential.

Virtual training to be held on October 12, 2023 from 9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. Register [Here](#)

Elevation Certificates: Section A

This class focuses on Section A of the elevation certificate form. This class is approved for 1 Continuing Education Credit (CEC) toward the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) credential.

Virtual training to be held on November 7, 2023 from 1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. Register [Here](#)

Elevation Certificates: Section B

This class focuses on Section B of the elevation certificate form. This class is approved for 1 Continuing Education Credit (CEC) toward the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) credential.

Virtual training to be held on November 8, 2023 from 1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. Register [Here](#)

Elevation Certificates: Sections C, D, E

This class focuses on Sections C, D, and E of the elevation certificate form. This class is approved for 1 Continuing Education Credit (CEC) toward the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) credential.

Virtual training to be held on November 9, 2023 from 1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. Register [Here](#)

Find more information about floodplain management from Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources online at:

<http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain>

Email saves money on postage. The electronic newsletter also has links and the photos are in color. In the case that you are getting this newsletter by postal mail and would prefer email please contact Cheyenne Sun Eagle at: cheyenne.suneagle@ks.gov.

To find and register for upcoming training, as well as recordings of previous trainings, please see our new
Floodplain Management Training webpage at:

<https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain/training>

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.

**To find and register for upcoming training, as well as recordings of previous trainings, please see our new Floodplain Management Training webpage at: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain/training>

** Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in training. Persons who require special accommodations must make their needs known at least five working days prior to training. For more information, including special accommodations, please contact Cheyenne Sun Eagle at 785-296-0854 or by email Cheyenne.Suneagle@ks.gov.

Please scan and email your registration to: cheyenne.suneagle@ks.gov

Or mail to:

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
1131 SW Winding Road, Suite 400
TOPEKA, KS 66615

For questions about training, please contact Cheyenne Sun Eagle by email at cheyenne.suneagle@ks.gov or by phone at 785-296-0854. You may also contact Tara Lanzrath by email at tara.lanzrath@ks.gov or by phone at 785-296-2513

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 785-296-0854 or email cheyenne.suneagle@ks.gov to report the change.

Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
Topeka Field Office
Floodplain Management
1131 SW Winding Road, Suite 400
Topeka, KS 66615

Kansas Association For Floodplain Management 2024 Conference in Lawrence

The 2024 KAFM Conference will be August 27-28 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Lawrence, Kansas.

Association of State Floodplain Managers 2024 Conference in Salt Lake City

The 2024 ASFPM Conference will be June 23-27, at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**KDA/DWR Water Structures
Floodplain Program Staff**

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