

KANSAS

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT TIPS



April 2013

Applying For Mitigation Grants

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency offers a variety of flood mitigation grants to reduce the impact of future losses. These grants include Repetitive Flood Claims (<http://www.fema.gov/repetitive-flood-claims-program>), a program aimed at structures defined as repetitive loss properties, and Flood Mitigation Assistance (<http://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-program>) that provides funds to be used for flood damage reduction. Another FEMA program, Severe Repetitive Loss (<http://www.fema.gov/severe-repetitive-loss-program>), is aimed at properties that have had two separate flood insurance claims exceeding the fair market value of the building or at least four claims of more than \$5,000 each.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the most widely used mitigation grant program in Kansas, is used to fund flood mitigation projects after a presidential disaster has been declared. When a presidential disaster declaration is issued in Kansas, 15 percent of the disaster funds go in to the HMGP fund for project uses.

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) prefers that HMGP funds be used in the communities directly affected by the declared disaster. Sometimes these communities cannot use all the HMGP funds available for multiple reasons, including a lack of an approved hazard mitigation plan. For these reasons, funds are opened up for all eligible entities in Kansas, which includes a city, county, school district, university, electric cooperative or some other qualified entity that participated in a hazard mitigation plan.

KDEM notifies emergency management directors in all counties when HMGP funds become available. The Floodplain Management Team through Division of Water Resources also notifies local floodplain managers about the availability. To ensure optimum communication, community officials and floodplain managers should keep in contact with their emergency management directors and discuss mitigation projects.

HMGP notices include an explanation of the funding, funding amounts, cost share, application period dates, contact information and a simple letter of intent. A community can fill out the letter of intent with details about the mitigation project it would like to complete and submit.

At the end of the application period, letters of intent are given to an HMGP review group to evaluate each grant request and score it with a predetermined point system. The grading system assigns higher scores to communities directly affected by the disaster and mitigation projects that directly relate to the disaster. Top scoring grant projects are given priority for funding.

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Applying For Mitigation Grants, continued

Top scoring grant project applicants are then notified to submit a full application to KDEM for review. Communities are encouraged to do research to develop HGMP project ideas immediately. Communities that have a grant project in mind and information compiled will be ready to file a letter of intent for a grant as soon as funds become available.

An important part of the full grant application will be the cost benefit analysis. Know that mitigation grants require a cost to benefit ratio of at least 1:1. In other words, every dollar spent on mitigation should eliminate at least one dollar's worth of future losses. Good record keeping can help to prove a successful cost benefit analysis.

Successfully completed mitigation projects in Kansas have included tornado shelters in schools, buyout and removal of properties from high risk flood areas and tornado sirens. These mitigation projects make Kansas safer for everyone.

Questions about mitigation grants should be directed to State Hazard Mitigation Officer Jake Gray at Jacob.s.gray.nfg@mail.mil.

Classroom in photo is a mitigation grant funded tornado shelter in Cleaveland Elementary School.



New Online Letter of Map Change Tool

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a new online tool that allows for a faster submittal of a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) request. A property owner can submit a LOMA request for an out as shown determination. The web address for the new LOMA tool is <http://www.fema.gov/online-lomc>.

To test this tool, DWR staff tried out the online process comprised of a series of a web pages. It only took staff a few minutes to complete each page. At the application end, scanned documents need to be uploaded that may require certification by an engineer or surveyor depending on the type of submittal.

Questions should be directed to FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) at 1-877-336-2627. A handout about this new online tool will be provided with the email version of this newsletter.

Successes of the Wildcat Creek Watershed Working Group

The Wildcat Creek Watershed Working Group was formed by the Manhattan City Commission and Riley County Board of County Commissioners to address concerns from property owners impacted by flooding on Wildcat Creek in 2010 and 2011.

The group, which is led by a city commissioner and a county commissioner with members including selected residents, business owners, property owners impacted by the recent floods as well as experts in fields related to flooding and a representative from Fort Riley, the group meets regularly.

The working group was awarded a pilot project grant from the Silver Jacket program and other assistance projects from Kansas State University, the Division of Water Resources and the Corps of Engineers. The Silver Jacket project initiated placement of three stream gages to monitor Wildcat Creek's flow and stream depth. These gages have been used to model the flooding on the creek by the National Weather Service (NWS) and are graphically and visually shown through GIS on the NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service website (http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/inundation/inundation_google.php?g_datatype=depth&wfo=top&gage=mwck1). The Silver Jacket program also provided a flood warning sign placed on a bridge crossing Wildcat Creek and a template and expertise in creating a floodplain management plan for Wildcat Creek. The floodplain management plan will be the culmination of the working group's efforts.

With the help of the Kansas Division of Water Resources, the city of Manhattan contracted with AMEC Environment and Infrastructure to create a future prediction flood model based on the future build out of the Wildcat Creek watershed using the city and county's comprehensive land use plan. A similar flood model was also created on the east side of town near the Blue River. This flood model will be shown on the upcoming Riley County Flood Plain study and FIRMs and the city and county are working on high standard floodplain regulation related to this new floodplain boundary and elevations.

Other stakeholders, such as Kansas State University, have begun ongoing student and faculty research on alternatives and innovative ways to reduce and mitigate the impacts of flooding on Wildcat Creek for county and city residents.

The Wildcat Creek Watershed Working Group was formed less than two years ago and has had a number of successful initiatives. All communities in Kansas with a recognized flooding problem should consider forming their own watershed group.

The Cost of Flooding

The National Flood Insurance Program has created an interactive flood simulation tool to help individuals understand the expenses caused flood events. The Cost of Flooding website is available at: http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/flooding_flood_risks/the_cost_of_flooding.jsp.

The Cost Of Flooding is an interactive tool that allows individuals to watch a simulation of a flood event and see the costs associated with the event. The Cost Of Flooding will also help you find an insurance agent knowledgeable about the sale of flood insurance. The Cost Of Flooding is one of the many great resources available at www.floodsmart.gov.

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.

Quick 2

This free class is intended for community officials, engineers and surveyors tasked with determining base flood elevations in unnumbered Zone A areas. Quick 2 is a software developed by FEMA. The course focus will involve training on the software and students must provide their own lap top computers. This is a one time training opportunity that may not be offered again. Approved 3.5 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20 participants.

- Lansing - May 7, 2013 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.

- Bel Aire - June 18, 2013 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Wamego - June 26, 2013 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Basics of the National Flood Insurance Program

This class is for officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. The focus is 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 participants.

- Paola – July 18, 2013 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Division of Water Resources newsletter “Currents” can be read on line at:

<http://www.ksda.gov/dwr/content/314>

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.

Mark your calendar to attend the Kansas Association for Floodplain Management 2013 conference September 4 and 5 in Topeka. 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 Don Slone, Chairman, at 913-667-1708.

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
Topeka, KS 66612-1283

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 1,000 floodplain management professionals. This conference is great chance to meet people for networking and to learn the latest news in floodplain management.

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