



The Antediluvian

Ohio's Floodplain Management Newsletter

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The Floodplain Management Program Mission Statement: To provide leadership to local governments, state agencies, and interested parties toward cooperative management of Ohio's floodplains to support the reduction of flood damage and the recognition of the floodplain's natural benefit. This mission will be accomplished through technical assistance, public awareness, education, and development/protection standards.

The following article first appeared in *The Antediluvian*, Volume II, Issue 2 (Summer, 1995). Given the influx of new floodplain administrators, it seems like a good idea to offer it to our readers again- with appropriate updates. This also gives us the opportunity to announce that select articles from *The Antediluvian* will be made available on our website at: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/odnr/water/> [Editor]



You Are the Local Floodplain Manager – Among Other Things!

By Cynthia J. Crececius, CFM
Program Manager, Division of Water - Floodplain Management Program

In the current climate of *doing more with less* we are all finding that our jobs encompass much more than we perhaps thought. Based upon information gathered in almost 800 **Community Assistance Visits** over the last fifteen years, the Division of Water staff has rarely found someone whose sole function is local floodplain management. This means that while many of you have the basic concepts down, you may not have been able to take the additional time to learn the fine points of the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) administrative details. The following problems seem to be prevalent in many communities:

- Ohio communities have other regulations which are inconsistent or conflict with their local flood damage prevention regulations, or have not updated their flood damage prevention regulations to remain compliant with current NFIP criteria

- Ohio communities have administrative deficiencies or enforcement problems, such as not requiring development permits for all activities in the special flood hazard area, not obtaining certified as-built elevation data, failing to record flood protection elevation on permits issued, failing to take actions against violations which are not compliant with local regulations, and failure to use available data for areas shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency maps as A or approximate flood hazard areas

- Ohio communities have been made aware of structures in violation with their local floodplain management regulations in the post-flood response and recovery period. Since the 1996, 1997, and 1998 flood disasters affected much of the same area, there was much more comprehensive review of the damage and repair practices.

Many communities were faced with

tens and hundreds of structures that were not compliant with their code.

The consequence of minor administrative oversights compounds across Ohio. Failure to enforce development standards and to protect new and substantially improved structures takes us all further from the goal of reducing flood damage potential while encouraging wise use of the floodplain. The responsibility to remedy structural violations "to the maximum extent practical" can be both costly and time consuming for a community. There is an element of liability that also weighs on the community if the violations are not addressed.

The successful implementation of the NFIP depends upon you as the local floodplain manager. The Division of Water staff would like to offer you the following key points for administering an effective program in your community.

In this Issue

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>You Are the Local FPM</i> | 1 |
| How Communities Can Help Protect Themselves from Flood Losses... | 3 |
| The Distinguished Floodway..... | 5 |
| Severe Weather Safety Awareness Week..... | 6 |
| Post-Flood Disaster Response Survey Introduction..... | 6 |
| Post-Flood Disaster Response Survey..... | insert |
| More on Enforcement: Resolving Floodplain Violations..... | 7 |
| Looking for a Few Good Regulations..... | 8 |
| Wet-Floodproofing (Technical Bulletin #7-93)..... | 8 |
| Back & Forth..... | 9 |
| The Stafford Act & Hazard Mitigation..... | 9 |
| Stafford Act Changes Approved..... | 10 |
| Roll Call..... | 10 |
| WMAO..... | insert |
| Workshop Watch..... | 11 |
| 2 nd Statewide Floodplain Management Conference..... | back cover |

• **DISPLAY YOUR FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP & FLOODWAY IN A PROMINENT LOCATION** This reminds the public that your community has flood damage prevention standards. It will also remind you and other officials involved in development review that flood hazards must be evaluated in all actions involving the regulatory (100-year) flood-plain. The map and *Flood Insurance Study* will help you determine the location of two important regulatory areas, the floodplain fringe and floodway.

• **KNOW THE PROVISIONS OF YOUR LOCAL FLOOD DAMAGE REGULATIONS.** Each Ohio community which participates in the NFIP has committed to adoption and enforcement of minimum land management criteria for flood damage reduction. You have also agreed to comply with the administrative procedures established by the NFIP including: development review, record keeping, assessment or' penalties, and remedy of violations.

• **NOTIFY ALL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICANTS WHEN THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IS IN AN IDENTIFIED 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN.** The development will be subject to specific flood damage prevention standards which differ from general development standards. Require all new and substantially improved structures to meet the requirements of your regulations. Specify the flood protection elevation and floodway limits on every development permit for activities within the floodplain.

• **ENSURE THAT FLOODWAYS ARE UNOBSTRUCTED BY FILL OR OTHER DEVELOPMENT.** Periodically check near identified watercourses to ensure that floodways are not being filled and that a permit has been issued for all actions where one is needed. Make sure that proposed channel modifications are coordinated with neighboring communities, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

• **NOTIFY FEMA OF ANY NEEDED CHANGES TO YOUR MAPS OR FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY.** Local floodplain managers are responsible for notifying FEMA if there are activities which invalidate the current map and flood study information. A common action requiring notice to FEMA is a community's annexation of areas which contain identified 100-year floodplain.

• **REQUIRE CERTIFICATION OF AS-BUILT ELEVATIONS AND FLOODPROOFING MEASURES AND MAINTAIN RECORDS THEREOF.** These records prove development in your community is flood-protected. They also ensure that the flood insurance premium of a property protected by flood insurance will be accurately rated. Compliance with the local flood damage prevention regulations saves the property owner money. If floodproofing is used instead of elevation, require an architect or engineer's certification of the methods and materials.

• **USE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION TO PROTECT DEVELOPMENT LOCATED IN AREAS DELINEATED AS SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD WHERE NO WATER SURFACE ELEVATIONS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED ON THE MAP.** It is the local floodplain manager's responsibility to look for other data from federal, state and local sources which may be used to protect development in the flood hazard area. Your local regulations contain a provision which requires applicants of large scale (50 lots or 5 acres) development to generate the 100-year flood elevation. If you are unsure about the availability of data other than that included in your flood insurance map and study, you may contact the Division of Water, Floodplain Management Program at (614) 265-6750 for assistance.

• **DOCUMENT ANY VARIANCES GRANTED TO YOUR FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION REGULATIONS.** Make sure you understand the limits of the variance authority that is given to the NFIP-participating community. Your local flood damage prevention regulations contain very specific guidelines and criteria for variances. Any variance that is granted must be the minimum necessary to

provide relief from severe hardship and should be contingent upon conditions which will minimize the potential for flood damage. Note that variances to the local floodplain management regulations do run vary the insurance requirements and actuarial rating structure.

• **CALL THE DIVISION OF WATER WHEN YOU ARE IN DOUBT.** Our mission is to support your local efforts toward cooperative management of Ohio's floodplains to ensure the reduction of flood damage and the balanced wise use of the floodplain as a resource. We will provide technical assistance, education and training and recommended development criteria to further this mission.

CONSIDER BECOMING A NATIONALLY CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN MANAGER. The Association of State Floodplain Managers has developed this certification as a way to lay the foundation for ensuring that highly qualified individuals are available to meet the challenge of breaking the damage cycle and stopping this negative drain on the nation's human, financial, and natural resources. The formation of a professional certification program is recognized as an effective means to:

- Formalize a procedure to recognize and provide an incentive for individuals to improve their knowledge of floodplain management concepts;

- Enhance individual professional development goals;

- Promote an understanding of relevant subject matter that is consistent nationwide;

- Convey new concepts and practices; And

- Build partnerships among organizations and agencies that share the goal of advancing sound floodplain management

These key points serve as the building blocks for sound and effective local floodplain management. By addressing the noted items you can stay on tilt: right track. If reducing flood damage and

sustaining your floodplain as a resource are not strong enough incentives, you may also want to consider that following these points should keep the Division of Water staff satisfied in the event of a Community Assistance Visit in your community!

We hope that by helping you focus on the basics of floodplain management, you will all agree that there is room on that office hat rack for the one identifying you as **LOCAL FLOODPLAIN MANAGER**. Not all of our jobs come with the benefits of saving lives, reducing taxpayer expenditures, and improving the quality of life for all our residents. 



How Communities Can Help Protect Themselves from Flood Losses

EDUCATING COMMUNITY RESIDENTS ABOUT THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

This modified article is one of a FEMA series on preparedness and prevention/ designed to assist communities in becoming more disaster-resistant. [Editor]

Ohio community officials are faced with a challenge every day: the challenge of supporting and protecting the communities they represent. The fact that flooding is the most common natural disaster in the U.S. is not news to Ohio. Ohio community officials are all too familiar with flood disasters; there were eight Presidential declarations in Ohio for flooding from 1990 to present date. By educating residents about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and flood insurance, local officials can help protect citizens from the personal and financial devastation floods can cause.

The NFIP provides important tools for assisting Ohio communities with this challenge by making federally-backed flood insurance available in communities

that adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage.

Public entities, homeowners, renters, and businesses in communities across the U.S., including 712 communities in Ohio, can buy this important insurance coverage, which is not offered in standard homeowner or business insurance policies. As of March 2000, there were 35,409 flood insurance policies in force in Ohio providing total coverage of \$2,840,701,800. Further, the NFIP, administered by the Federal Insurance Administration (FIA), a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is a self-supporting program. An important note is that the \$83,114,927 paid in claims to Ohioans over the last 10 years, as well as the program's operating expenses, are paid from policyholder premiums, not tax dollars.

It is especially important that local officials carry appropriate flood insurance on their public buildings. One of the first steps that a local community official should take is to find out if there is adequate flood insurance coverage for public buildings in the community. Officials should remember that if a public building located in a Special Flood Hazard Area is damaged in a flood, the building is only eligible for disaster assistance, if a Federal disaster is declared, for reimbursement of damages above the level of insurance which would have been available on the building.

Flood insurance is important to the community as a whole. When a flood hits a community, not only does it cause property damage, but also it can cripple the economy and displace its residents. Businesses may be forced to temporarily or permanently close, and employees of these businesses, who are also homeowners and renters, can lose their jobs as a result and may be forced to relocate.

A study conducted by the University of Wisconsin shows that more than 43 percent of small businesses never reopen after a natural disaster and nearly 29 percent close within two years. Floods can hurt a community for years to come, and the local economy may never recover.

In addition to providing flood insurance claim benefits following a flood disaster, the NFIP is effective in helping to prevent or reduce future flood damage. Community participation in the NFIP is based upon a

partnership. Individual property owners are able to purchase flood insurance underwritten by the Federal government in return for their elected officials establishing a safe, consumer-protection-oriented local floodplain management program. This local floodplain management program establishes a point in time whereby future development in the floodplain will be monitored and revised by local officials to eliminate or minimize future damages. Studies have shown that the building of structures in compliance with the NFIP's building standards helps to reduce the potential future flood damage to those buildings by more than 75 percent. And, when a structure is built to or beyond the standards, the flood insurance premium for that structure is less, because the flood risk is lower.

When disaster does strike, and it will, homeowners and renters without flood insurance may have to turn to other types of assistance to recover, which may require State or local tax dollars and other resources. If a Federal disaster is declared, grants and loans may be available to help flood victims get back on their feet, but these programs are not designed to make people whole. This disaster assistance carries a heavy price tag paid by tax payers. The eight Ohio flood disasters over the last 10 years have cost over \$166.6 million in FEMA assistance alone. This cost doesn't include the untold resources at the State and local levels, and, often, such assistance is not available because the impact of the disaster is not great enough to receive a Presidential declaration, leaving homeowners and renters to draw upon their own resources to repair and recover from the damage.

Because residents and businesses with flood insurance begin the process of recovery more rapidly, the entire community can get back on its feet more quickly and easily after a flood event. When residents and business owners have National Flood Insurance, their claims are paid through the insurance mechanism.

Flood insurance provides them with money to rebuild, even if a Federal disaster is not declared. That means businesses can reopen more quickly after a flood, employees can continue to work in the area and the economy can rebound.

Also, residents can take steps as they rebuild to make their homes and businesses more disaster -resistant to reduce future damage.

You, as a community official, play a critical role in educating and promoting the benefits of the National Flood Insurance Program, as well as other prevention steps, to your residents. One of the biggest challenges the NFIP faces is educating the public on the location of potential flood risks within their communities and the availability of flood insurance. Community leaders need to promote and prominently display flood maps or other documents which highlight the flood risks for their community. They must get the word out that their community has adopted a floodplain ordinance that requires homeowners and businesses to obtain a building permit for development in the floodplain. The residents of each community should be aware of their designated floodplain management official and be encouraged to utilize this person or technical assistance during construction. The citizens must also understand that flood insurance is available to all individuals living in a community that participates in the NFIP. One does not have to live in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), as indicated on the *Flood Insurance Rate Map*, to be eligible to purchase flood insurance.

When people hear about floods and the coverage available through flood insurance, many still think, *It won't happen to me*. Local officials can be instrumental in helping people understand risks and that flood insurance is the *best* way to recover after a flood. Research shows that people believe local experts who can provide them with local information about their flood risk. As that expert, a local official is in a position to help the community and its residents - who are also your family, friends, and neighbors before a flood hits. These efforts can make a difference to your community's future.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, through its NFIP State Coordinator, is a great resource for the local community official. The NFIP State Coordinator can provide technical assistance; workshops and seminars to help community staff better understand

the benefits and requirements of the NFIP. For additional information concerning events offered throughout the year, contact the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water at (614) 265-6750.

Also, through the NFIP State Coordinator, a Statewide Floodplain Management Conference is currently scheduled for late August 2001, in Columbus. Please mark this event on your calendar. Another beneficial resource to you as a local official is the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. They can help you and your local emergency manager look at your community as a whole and suggest ways you can make your community more disaster-resistant.

So, what can you, as a community official, do right now? In many cases, local insurance agents and lenders are not informed as to the benefits and requirements of the NFIP. They lack the correct information to answer customer questions, which results in misinformation. You, as a local official, should publicize the NFIP educational offerings to your local insurance agents. The NFIP provides **Insurance Agent and Lender Workshops** each year throughout the state of Ohio. For more information concerning Ohio workshops, see the list of training opportunities on page 11 or you may wish to contact Rich Slevin Regional, Marketing Manager for the NFIP, at (630) 577-1407.

You may also wish to initiate a communitywide NFIP educational campaign. One way to start is by establishing an NFIP resource library in the community offices. FEMA has resource materials for your use. One of these is FEMA's *Good Ideas Book*, item number 8-1108. It provides many suggestions about ways to communicate to your community the flood risk in your area and the benefits of flood insurance. For a copy of this book, call the FEMA publications Distribution Center at 1-800-480-2520.

Some of the suggestions included in this book are listed below.

- Hold a lecture about the benefits of the NFIP at local events or for community organizations, such as Kiwanis meetings, or the local Chamber of Commerce.

- Host a Flood Awareness Day in your community and have a special booth where people can stop by and get information about flood insurance; issue a proclamation about the danger of floods and the importance of flood insurance; invite guest speakers, such as insurance agents, local building officials, and others to talk about the area's flood risk; and invite members of the media so people who are unable to attend can still get information through the local newspaper or television stations.

- Conduct a series of seminars, such as *Protecting Your Home and Business From the Impacts of Disasters* and have building officials, architects, engineers, and insurance agents provide information about ways people can protect their homes and businesses from the impacts of floods. Also, include local home and business owners who have been flooded, so they can share their experiences with the audience, specifically those who have taken steps to prevent the damages associated with disasters.

- Distribute free NFIP materials at special events, such as state and local fairs, blood drives, and others.

- Establish partnerships with businesses and nonprofit organizations to have them distribute and display flood insurance information. Libraries, post offices, and real estate offices can be very helpful in getting information out to your community.

- Work with your local media to provide information about the community's flood risk and the importance of flood insurance so they can prepare articles and stories about the topic. Also, you should make yourself and the other leaders your community available to them for interviews.

- Convene a floodplain planning management session with civic, business, and community leaders to explore a range of options on how to make the community flood-safe for the future.

- Consider participating in the NFIP's Community Rating System, an incentive program within the NFIP that reduces the cost of flood insurance for those communities with floodplain management managers that exceed the minimum requirements of the NFIP.

In addition to the publications referenced above, the NFIP has produced many brochures, fact sheets, and stuffers that explain the importance of flood insurance, to help local officials and others provide accurate and helpful information to people in their communities. For instance, there is a series of brochures available titled: *Flood: Are You Protected from the Next Disaster?; Who is at risk for flooding?; Coping with a Flood-Before, During and After, Tips on Handling Your Flood Insurance Claim; and Things You Should Know About Flood Insurance*. For an order form of these free brochures and other public awareness materials for your outreach campaign, call the FEMA Fax at (202) 646-FEMA (or toll-free 1-800-480-2520), and request an order form (document number F-057). It's as easy as selecting the materials you would like to distribute, filling out the form, and sending it in. Another source of information is the FEMA/NFIP website, at <http://www.fema.gov/nfip>

By taking these steps to begin the process of education and protecting our citizens, we can all work together to make every community in Ohio disaster-resistant. Each of you entered office with a vision for your future; without taking the appropriate steps, your vision may not be realized. Please take the time to identify the risks within your community and find ways to address those risks before a disaster strikes. 💧

The Distinguished Floodway



By Chad M. Berginnis, CFM,
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Floodplain Management Program

Floodways are often misunderstood pieces of floodplain management. Born out of sophisticated engineering analyses, floodways are usually difficult to visualize in the field. However, the floodway is critical to local floodplain management programs as it is part of the *trade-off* between conserving, and allowing regulated development in floodplain areas.

Floodways are the most highly regulated component of the floodplain because

they are the "conservation" that must remain open to allow the discharge of the base flood (also the 100-year flood). Floodways may be characterized by any or all of the following: high velocity (fast moving) flow, damaging debris load, and deep or dangerous water.

Floodways almost always include the channel of a watercourse and usually some adjacent land areas. Sometimes, a floodway can be *split* into two areas depending on the characteristics of the stream and surrounding land area and part of this split floodway may be separate from the channel of the watercourse.

Floodways are identified by a hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) engineering analysis.

These analyses are completed by a registered Professional Engineer and can be generated for any stream or river. Floodways may be shown on a community's *Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)*, *Flood Boundary & Floodway Map (FBFM)*, studies conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and U.S. Geological Survey, and on studies for individual developments. The reason there are more watercourses shown on community's flood maps without floodways than with them, is cost. Floodway analyses can be very expensive. Unfortunately, Ohio is allocated a very small amount of money from the federal government for floodplain mapping.

Since floodways may be identified on at least one watercourse in many Ohio communities, it is very important that the local floodplain administrator (FPA) understand the regulations and requirements for any development proposed in the floodway. Failure in this understanding will certainly lead to development that will have a high risk of flood damage and put lives in jeopardy. The rest of this article will focus on key floodway development issues that are often misunderstood. Please note that the information provided here is pertinent to Ohio communities having adopted minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards (the ODNR model regulations). Some communities have adopted floodway development standards that may be more restrictive.

Myth: *The H&H analysis for a proposed development in an existing floodway can show up to a one foot rise in the base flood elevation (BFE or 100-year flood elevation).*

FACT: Once a floodway has been established on a watercourse, all future H&H analyses for proposed developments in the floodway must show a zero-rise in the BFE. When a floodway is initially established, one of the parameters includes allowing up to a one foot rise in the BFE. However, this is only true to establish the floodway. Once the floodway has been established, all proposed development in the floodway must meet the no-rise requirement.

Myth: *All development in the floodway is prohibited.*

FACT: While development in floodway areas is severely restricted and should be discouraged, under the NFIP minimum standards it is allowed provided the applicant hires a registered Professional Engineer to conduct an H&H analysis to show that the proposed development will meet the no-rise requirement. Depending on the type/size of development and the size of parcel being developed, steps can be taken by the applicant to offset the effects of the development, and would result in the development meeting the no-rise criteria. Again, some Ohio communities have more restrictive floodway development standards and may prohibit certain types of development in the floodway.

Myth: *The H&H analysis for a proposed floodway development can show a small rise such as .001 foot because it is a "negligible" or "minor" increase.*

FACT: Beware of the words negligible or minor! The no-rise standard is just that – it means zero. The reality is that if project X were allowed and it had a .005 rise, project Y showed a .03 foot rise and so forth, the cumulative impact of the floodway development could cause a significant increase in the base flood elevation within the community. To avoid these impacts, the no-rise requirement must be strictly interpreted.

A local floodplain administrator who receives an H&H analysis for a proposed floodway development should be wary of the following statements: *The project will cause negligible impacts . . .* or *The*

rise in the base flood elevation is so small it is essentially zero ... It is a good idea that any H&H analysis for a proposed floodway development has a statement that the development will cause zero-rise in the base flood elevation. The ODNR, Floodplain Management Program office has an example of a certification form that can be used for this purpose.

Myth: *The applicant proposing a floodway development has submitted to the floodplain administrator a signed, sealed H&H analysis that shows a zero-rise in the base flood elevation. The proposed development is now compliant with local floodplain regulations and can be issued a development permit.*

FACT: Not yet. For proposed developments in the floodway, not only must it be shown that the project meets the no-rise standard, but it also must meet any other applicable performance standard in the community's floodplain regulations. For example if the proposed development was a commercial structure, it must be either elevated or dry floodproofed to the base flood elevation.

Myth: *An applicant that does not wish to hire a registered Professional Engineer to conduct an H&H analysis for a proposed floodway development can request a variance to be relieved of this requirement.*

FACT: The variance criteria for evaluating floodplain developments expressly prohibits the granting of a variance from the *no-rise* requirement. In fact, this is the only true hard and fast variance rule. Because variances cannot be granted for floodway developments that would cause increases in the base flood elevation, no proposed floodway development could ever be permitted without the H&H analysis being con-ducted.

Myth: *A community official has to be an engineer to review H&H analyses for proposed floodway developments.*

FACT: Although some engineering background will undoubtedly make a floodplain administrator more comfortable, it is not required. A floodplain administrator, at a minimum, should review H&H analyses for the following: **1)** That it was completed by a registered Professional Engineer (most studies will be signed and have the engineer's seal or stamp), and **2)** that the analysis has a statement that the proposed development

will cause zero-rise in the base flood elevation. If questions about an H&H that has been submitted as a result of a proposed floodway development arise, the floodplain administrator can request a review of the analysis by ODNR's engineering staff.

Severe Weather Safety Awareness Week



By Christopher M. Thoms, CFM
Senior Environmental Specialist,
Division of Water - Floodplain
Management Program

Governor Robert Taft has proclaimed March 25th through 31st as Severe Weather Safety Awareness Week, the first of the new century and the new millennium. Each year the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA) sponsors two awareness weeks to draw attention to the need to prepare for severe weather. OCSWA provides severe weather information packets tailored for teachers and media statewide. These packets contain statistics and safety tips about the severe weather we face in Ohio including: flooding, tornados, winter storms, and thunderstorms. The committee was formed following the infamous tornado that wreaked havoc on Xenia, Ohio on April 3, 1974. On September 20, 2000, Xenia had an unwelcome reminder of the continual need for severe weather awareness. Each year a Severe Weather Poster Contest is conducted for elementary-age students. The winner's poster is used to promote severe weather awareness year-round because the threat of severe weather is with us throughout the year. While we at the Floodplain Management Program Office specialize in flood safety awareness, the Spring and Winter Campaigns promote broad awareness of all types of severe weather for Ohio. The OCSWA consists of representatives from National Weather Service, Ohio Departments of Education - Health - Natural Resources - Ohio Emergency

Management Agency, County Emergency Management Director's Association, Red Cross, Ohio Insurance Institute, Slate Fire Marshal's office, and the Ohio News Network.

If you would like to receive more information concerning severe weather safety, please contact your county emergency management agency or the local chapter of the Red Cross.

For a copy of the educational materials developed in support of this awareness effort contact the Ohio Emergency Management Agency at (614) 799-3695 or download the information from the Ohio EMA Website at <http://www.state.oh.us/odps/division/ema/tfsc99.pdf>.

The OSWC encourages you as a local floodplain administrator to take this occasion to promote floodplain and flood hazard awareness as part of Ohio's Severe Weather Awareness Week March 25th through 31st, 2001.

Post-Flood Disaster Response Survey

By Mark Ogden, P.E., Section Administrator, Division of Water

The Floodplain Management Program (FMP) Staff has undertaken a project to develop a standard operating procedure for post-flood disaster situations. The Program will follow this procedure, following major flood events to ensure that customer needs are met. The FMP staff desires the input of *stakeholders* (persons or groups with a direct interest) in floodplain management and the National Flood Insurance Program in the development of this procedure. Because your input into the development of the procedure is vital to meeting customer and stakeholder needs, the FMP staff asks that you complete the survey included with this newsletter. Please return completed surveys by March 20, 2001, to my attention at: Division of Water, 1939 Fountain Square Drive, Bldg E-3, Columbus, OH 43224. We greatly appreciate your assistance.



FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER



Post-Flood Disaster Response Survey

Ohio's Floodplain Management Program (FMP) has undertaken a project to develop a standard operating procedure in post-flood disaster situations. The program will follow this procedure following major flood events to ensure that customer needs are met. The FMP desires the input of stakeholders in floodplain management and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in the development of this procedure. Because your input into the development of the procedure is vital to meeting customer and stakeholder needs, the FMP asks that you complete the survey on the reverse page. The following paragraphs explain the mission, responsibilities and strengths of the Floodplain Management Program in post-flood disaster situations. We greatly appreciate your assistance.

The FMP is located within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Water. Although most floodplain management authority lies with local government, the Division has broad responsibility for a variety of floodplain management activities. Expertise in floodplain management has been developed over several decades through the Division's role as the NFIP Coordinator for the State of Ohio. In addition to coordination of the NFIP, state law defines a role of technical advisor for the Division of Water, FMP.

Major responsibilities:

- promote floodplain management in Ohio,
- develop and disseminate technical flood hazard information to support flood risk reduction and protection of floodplain resources and natural function,
- assist local units of government in establishing floodplain management programs,
- cooperate and assist local, state and federal agencies with flood mitigation efforts, and
- assist state agencies which fund, approve and undertake development actions in flood hazard areas to ensure that projects and activities are consistent with state flood damage reduction standards.

The FMP is committed to leadership of public and private interests for cooperative management of Ohio's floodplains to reduce flood damage and protect the floodplain resources. Broad strategies of partnership, planning, education, technology integration and technical assistance are the basis of the program's objectives and daily actions.

The FMP addresses the following strategic issues:

- managing floodplains as a resource,
- meeting state statutory mandates, and
- maintaining expert floodplain management technical assistance capability to achieve a comprehensive approach for sustainable floodplain management.

1. What is your affiliation with Floodplain Management. (Please circle one.)

County EMA Official

State EMA Official

Other State Agency

Local Floodplain Administrator

Other _____

2. How long have you been involved in floodplain management? _____

3. Are you familiar with the post-flood responsibilities of the NFIP for a local official?
(Please circle one.) Yes or No

4. Has your community experienced a flood disaster? (Please circle one.) Yes or No
If yes, year of most recent disaster. _____

5. Please indicate the benefit from the following areas of assistance to you and/or your community in a post-flood situation. If your community has been assisted in any of these areas in the past, please indicate your level of satisfaction.

| Area of Assistance | Benefit Level | | | | | | | | | | Satisfaction Level | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|--------------------|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|----|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | No Benefit | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Great Benefit | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Very Dissatisfied | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Very Satisfied | | | | | | |
| Review of NFIP and State flood damage reduction regulations | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Public presentations and materials on NFIP | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Training in NFIP regulations and permit processes | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Training on local NFIP compliance responsibilities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| NFIP substantial damage assessment training | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Training on high water marking | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Flood hazard mapping | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Review of floodway development (engineering support) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Base Flood Elevation (BFE) determinations | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Substantial damage determinations | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Flood mitigation planning | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Other | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Other | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Other | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Other | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

More on Enforcement RESOLVING FLOODPLAIN VIOLATIONS

This modified article is reprinted from the Division of Water Resources, Floodplain Compliance: Enforcing Your Community's Floodplain Management Ordinance. Springfield, IL, Illinois Department of Transportation, 1991. Since this article was composed by & for Illinois officials-a caution to Ohio floodplain administrators-check with your local solicitor for advice on specific provisions of Ohio law (regarding trespass, etc.).

The means of resolving floodplain violations may be as varied as the types of floodplain violations which may take place. But, two common threads hold all floodplain violations together: violators either did not obtain a permit prior to construction or construction did not follow the requirements of the approved plans. In either case, it is the enforcement official's responsibility to ensure compliance with the community's Flood Hazard Prevention Ordinance.

In order to resolve a reported violation, the community should have a written and approved floodplain violation procedure which it follows in all cases.

Litigation

Particular activities may be added to each step of the violation procedure to tailor the community's response to the type of violation. By following a standard procedure, the community should be prepared if the violation must be sent to its attorney to seek resolution.

Inspection and Notice

Once the community is aware of a floodplain violation, a site inspection should be scheduled. If this is an active permit, the inspector may go on site. However, if it is not an active permit, the owner's or occupant's permission must be received prior to entering private property.

The inspector should have prepared for the inspection by researching the code (or other applicable regulations) and site information prior to visiting the site. Essential information includes:

1. Legal description of property;
2. Property owner's name and address, along with any property identification numbers;
3. Flood Boundary Floodway Maps (FBFM) for the site, Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and/or Flood Hazard Boundary Maps (FHBM);
4. The base flood elevation; and
5. Lowest floor elevation of buildings on property.

The inspector may wish to hold an informal meeting with the property owner and register the community's concerns or determine that no violation has occurred! (the inspector is able to resolve the violation through this type of discussion; the community is ahead in the game. However, the inspector must be sure to keep a record of all comments, because they may be used in court.

If permission to enter the property is not obtained, the inspector should record this and leave the property; however, the inspector may inspect the site from any site accessible to the general public, such as roads, bridges or parks. The inspector may also inspect the site from adjacent property, if the owner or tenant of the parcel gives permission. Under no condition should the inspector gain access through intimidation or force onto the property. If access is denied, discuss the next means of action with the community's attorney.

Once assured that a violation may be taking place, two actions should be taken:

1. A violation notice should be placed in a prominent place on the property. If the violation is on a residential parcel, you should place it on the front door of the structure. If the violation is on a commercial or industrial parcel, the notice should be given to the receptionist or clerk, or it should be placed on a door that the general public is expected to use.

2. A violation notice letter should be sent by *Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested* to the owner of the property. The notice should explain the applicable part of the community's regulations/order that is being violated, and the remedies required to abate the violation.

Violation notices should always be sent by certified mail, with a copy of the receipt and letter being placed in the violation file. Many times floodplain violations are dismissed in court because the community cannot prove that the violator has been notified. If the violator refuses to sign the receipt, then you may wish to have the notice hand-delivered by a law officer or by two staff members (one to serve as a witness). The notice should also contain a date by which the owner must respond to the notice (28 days is recommended). The time period should be reasonable, and should be based on the life-threatening potential of the floodplain violations. This date will pave the way for additional action.

Violation Meeting

Assuming that the property owner wishes to clear up the violation (non-action will be discussed later under litigation); a violation meeting should be scheduled as soon as possible. Remember, you may not be able to clear it up in one meeting, and you should be prepared for more than one meeting before the violation is resolved.

The enforcement official should be prepared for all possibilities; from removal of the violation to exploring litigation. Explaining the possible repercussions may convince the violator to remove the violation. Again, it is very important to keep a record of what was said at the meeting, as this information may be entered into the court record.

Violations of the community's floodplain regulations will eventually lead to increased damages; therefore, enforcement of the regulations is your responsibility!

Litigation

If all other means of obtaining cooperation in removing or abating a violation fail, then the final ~ is to request that the I community attorney commence legal action, or litigation, against the violator.

Prior to taking the case to the attorney, the enforcement official should make sure that the chronology of the documentation of past action is in order and easily discernible (significant dates and actions should be included). An inspection and meeting record should be attached, outlining the course of action followed up to this point.

When taking the case to the attorney, the enforcement official should have a clear idea of the type of resolution being requested. This will assist the attorney in determining the course of action; whether it is demolition, restoration or other types of resolution (*i.e.*, map revisions, permit application, *etc.*).

Prior to actually filing a complaint with the court, the attorney may wish to send a letter to the potential defendant outlining the charges, and giving the defendant 30 days to respond. If successful, this will gain compliance without going through the often long and tedious effort of a court

If all other actions fail to gain compliance, the enforcement official must be ready for trial. This means either being ready to give testimony and/or lining up *expert witnesses* to give testimony.

The enforcement official is the best witness in any floodplain violation case because of the:

1. Best working knowledge court order;
2. Firsthand knowledge of the case;
3. Documents needed for witness corroboration (photos, eye witness accounts in writing, ordinances, *etc.*); and
4. Knowledge of the chain of custody of evidence (can verify that evidence has not been contaminated, altered or changed).

The community may also wish to obtain *expert witnesses* to further clarify the community's position and the effects of non-compliance. Expert witnesses may be paid consultants with knowledge: regarding floodplain violations of this type or officials from other Federal, State or local agencies. However, it is important to explain to the court their relation to this case and their field of expertise.

Section 1316 Denial of Insurance

Section 1316 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, provides for denial of flood insurance coverage for any property which the administrator finds has been declared by a duly constituted State or local authority to be in violation of State or local floodplain management regulations.

If, for some reason, a community can not force compliance through its normal enforcement mechanisms, then this program provides a back-up for enforcement action. Section 1316 is not intended as a substitute for remedying a violation by other means. It is meant as an action against uncorrectable floodplain violations and a deterrent against future violation. In addition, the threat of the denial of flood insurance, along with the possible economic repercussions, may be incentive enough to the property owner to correct a violation.

Section 1316 is not appropriate if-

1. The activity has been granted a variance from the community's floodplain regulations;
2. There is a defect in your community's *regulations*; or
3. Enabling legislation does not allow your community to declare the structure to be in violation.

In order to request a Section 1316, the community must provide declaration that the structure is in violation and that they have exhausted all means to remedy the violation. In addition, a copy of the notice of the violation, with clear evidence that it has been provided to the property owner, must be included with the 1316 request. 💧

Looking for a Few Good Regulations



By Michael K. Gease, Senior Environmental Specialist, Division of Water - Floodplain Management Program

The Division of Water will soon embark on a project to update its *Model Special Purpose Flood Damage Prevention Regulations* by developing an

entirely new version designed to incorporate additional regulatory criteria beyond the minimum standards of the insurance. For years many Ohio communities have used the which are based on the NHP's minimum flood protection standards, as a framework for establishing a local floodplain management and regulatory programs and as a requirement for NFIP participation. The Division of Water has revised the several times to reflect NFIP rules changes, the latest in 1998 with the revised definition for

However, many communities have development goals oriented toward managing have contacted the Division of Water expressing interest obtaining regulatory NFIP provided excerpts from several community ordinances, our research we have found a need to create a new version of the model that not only exceeds NFIP minimum criteria, but provides language enabling more effective administration and enforcement.

We are soliciting your ideas, sample Language, issues and concerns, or any other information you may wish to pass along to help the new model easier to understand, administer, and enforce. Please send your comments to either Chad Berginnis, Supervisor, or Michael Gease, Senior Environmental Specialist, ODNR Division of Water, 1939 Fountain Sq. Bldg. B-3, Columbus, OH 43224. For more information, please contact Chad at.(614) 265-6715. 💧

Wet-Floodproofing



By Christopher M. Thoms, CFM Senior Environmental Specialist, Division of Water - Floodplain Management Program

When building in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), the minimum NFIP-standards require that the lowest floor of the structure, including basement, be built at or above the Base Flood Elevation

(BFE), that the structure be anchored, that utilities be flood-protected, and that the construction materials and methods used, be flood-resistant. These are the four basic structural flood hazard reduction standards for any NFIP-participating community.

Technical Bulletin #7-94 **Wet-Floodproofing Requirements for Structures Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas in Accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program**, addresses an exception to the requirement to set the lowest floor at or above BFE. It is important to remember that though the term floodproofing may be used to describe any effort employed to reduce flood hazard exposure, your local flood damage prevention regulations and the minimum NFIP-standards use a specialized definition. It is also important to remember that FEMA's technical bulletins do not supersede any more restrictive local Sla that may apply.

Wet or Dry?

Wet-Floodproofing should be distinguished from *Dry-Floodproofing*. These terms define two distinct tactics for preventing or resisting flood damage to a structure.¹ Both tactics must protect against expected hydrodynamic and impact forces (see **Engineering Considerations**, page 11). Dry-floodproofing is restricted to non-residential structures only but wet-floodproofing may be considered for both residential and nonresidential structures. A dry-floodproofed structure is watertight, built to withstand the hydrostatic pressure of the floodwater pressing in from the outside, whereas a wet-flood proofed structure counteracts that pressure by allowing the floodwater in. Dry-floodproofing seats the interior of the structure (along with the contents) from the entry of floodwater while wet-floodproofing exposes the contents of the structure to flood damage (see **Protection of Contents & Equipment**, page 15). That damage could be avoided if the structure were elevated to or above the base flood elevation.

Is a Variance required?

Maybe. If the proposed development is Pre-FIRM and not a *substantial*

¹ See the last issue of *The Antediluvian* (Volume VII, Issue 2) for a discussion of **Dry-Floodproofing** in Technical Bulletin #3-93 *Non-Residential Floodproofing*.

improvement or has not been *substantially damaged*, owners may-without a variance-incorporate wet- or dry-floodproofing techniques to reduce flood damage. If the proposed development complies with the *enclosures below lowest floor* standards found in your flood loss reduction regulations (*i.e.*, attached garage with garage floor slab below BFE, or residence elevated to BFE above a garage), then the wet-floodproofed design is simply part of your development performance criteria (see **Applicability**, page 2)., If the development complies with your flood loss reduction regulations, a permit should be issued.

If the proposed development is a substantial improvement or Post-FIRM and the *enclosures below lowest floor* standards do *not* apply (*i.e.*, *not* used primarily for parking, access, or materials storage in a non-basement area), then the wet-floodproofed design may only be considered as a condition of a variance. All variances to your flood loss reduction regulations must be justified using the conditions and factors contained in those regulations. Variances to flood safety standards will increase the risk to life and property and may increase flood insurance premiums.

Is Wet-Floodproofing Right For Every Site?

Obviously, no. Any flood risk reduction tactic-even when considered appropriate---may present increased risks. A tactic that allows a structure to be flooded will have some obvious risks. The specific tactic selected for any development should be matched to the unique site conditions (see **Planning Considerations**, page 8; **Operational Procedures**, page 10; and **Further Information**, page 17).

Wet-floodproofing offers a way to protect a structure from destruction that cannot be protected by elevation or dry-flood proofing. Technical Bulletin #7-93 helps in deciding if wet-floodproofing is the best tactic to achieve that goal.

To obtain a copy of this or any of the Technical Bulletin series write to FEMA Publications P.O. Box 70274, Washington, D.C. 20024 or our office.

Back & Forth



reprinted from *Fax Today*

One night, a torrential rain soaked south Louisiana. The next morning, the resulting floodwaters came up about six feet into most of the homes. Mrs. Bordeaux was sitting on her roof with her neighbor, Mrs. Laroux, waiting for help to come. Mrs. Laroux noticed a lone baseball cap floating near the house. She saw it float far out into the front yard, then float all the way back to the house. It kept floating away from the house then back to it—back and forth. Her curiosity got the better of her, so she asked, *Mrs. Bordeaux, do you see that baseball cap floating away from the house and then back towards it?* Mrs. Bordeaux replied, *Oh yes, that's my husband. I told him he was going to cut the grass today, come hell or high water.*



The Stafford Act and Hazard Mitigation

By Michael K. Gease, Senior Environmental Specialist, Division of Water - Floodplain Management Program

The following article is a reprint from the November 2000, *Insider*, a newsletter for members of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). The article outlines recent changes to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and other legislation that enhances mitigation of hazards to public and nonprofit facilities such as those affected by flooding. The HMGP is an increasingly important element in post-flood risk reduction through acquisition, relocation, or retrofitting of structures, and dedication of acquired properties to community open space uses.



The changes included incentives such as creation of a Pre-disaster Mitigation Fund under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Project Impact initiative, increased state shares in HMGP funding and mitigation planning, and expanded state roles in sharing more of the HMGP grant management activities on behalf of FEMA (for which Ohio was a pilot state). Provisions are also included to reduce the federal share of disaster assistance to repetitive loss public and nonprofit facilities under FEMA's Public Assistance program, unless measures are taken to reduce losses. For more information on the HMGP and other FEMA mitigation activities, visit FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov> or OEMA's website at <http://www.state.oh.us/odps/division/ema/Mitigation.htm>. 

Stafford Act Changes Approved!

By Rebecca Quinn, ASFPM
Legislative Officer

Congress approved the **Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000** on October 10, 2000 and President Clinton signed it into law on October 30th (Public Law 106-390). A summary of selected provisions is accessible on the Association's website at www.floods.org. Some key provisions are highlighted below:

HMGP Funding Amount. In an endorsement of mitigation efforts across the country, in certain instances Congress authorized increasing the amount to be available for the HMGP from 15% to, 20% of the total disaster cost. This increase is dependent on a state having an acceptable mitigation plan that demonstrates interest and intent to track the effectiveness of projects.

Project Impact. A pre-disaster mitigation program is authorized and a National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund is established. Echoing concerns that mitigation must yield long-term and measurable benefits, FEMA is required to submit a report within 18 months of

enactment to evaluate implementation efforts. FEMA will chair an interagency, task force to coordinate implementation of the program

Mitigation Planning. In a somewhat surprising move, Congress specifically authorizes that 7% of HMGP funds are to be available to states for mitigation planning. This amount appears to be in addition to FEMA's current policy that gives states flexibility in how up to 5% is used.

Managing State. Allows FEMA to delegate the HMGP to qualified states, although the bill is silent on the NEPA provisions that seem to cause the most delay for many projects

[Editor's note: NEPA is the National Environmental Policy Act.]

Public Assistance (Section 406).

- Reduces the federal share or assistance 10 an eligible public facility or private non-profit facility that has been damaged on more than one occasion in a ten-year period if the owner has failed to implement appropriate mitigation measures 10 address the hazard.
- Authorizes the eligible cost of repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement to be based on cost estimates rather than actual costs incurred.
- Modifies how large in-lieu contributions are allowed if the owner of a damaged facility decides to demolish rather than repair it. In this case, the amount of federal funding is determined to be only 75% of the federal share that would be available if the facility was repaired or restored

Notably, these in-lieu contributions can be used to repair, restore, expand or mitigate other facilities, but not other facilities that are in a floodway or that are in a mapped flood hazard area and are not insured for flood damage. 

Roll Call

The Floodplain Management Program staff welcomes two new arrivals. They introduce themselves with the following articles. [Editor]



Darlene Magold



George Meyers

By George F. Meyers, P.E.,
CFM, Project Engineer, Division of
Water - Floodplain Management
Program

Hello. I am one of the newer members of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Floodplain Management Program staff. I am pleased to have been given this opportunity to introduce myself.

I joined the Floodplain Management Program in November 1999 as a staff engineer. My primary responsibilities are to provide technical assistance to communities and state agencies regarding engineering issues pertaining to floodplain management and to assist in the development of standards and rules pertaining to the conduct of flood studies in the State of Ohio.

I graduated from The Ohio State University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree. I worked in consulting as a Civil Engineer for six years prior to joining the Floodplain Management Program. During that time, I worked primarily on the design of commercial and retail site development projects and municipal stormwater projects.

I am proud to be part of the Floodplain Management Program team and am excited about the opportunity to provide

INVITATION TO JOIN OFMA

The Ohio Floodplain Management Association was formed out of a need stressed by those who work with floodplain management. The Ohio Floodplain Management Association was founded in 1995 by professionals interested in and responsible for floodplain management in the State of Ohio. OFMA promotes sound floodplain and stormwater management around the State.

OFMA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Four regional workshops were conducted in the past four years as part of the OFMA objectives. These workshops were geared toward local floodplain managers and other officials that deal with floodplain management issues.

The workshops were held in:

- Clermont County-1997
- Wood County-1998
- Medina County-1999
- Lawrence county-2000

If your community is interested in having a workshop please contact: Kari Mackenbach (OFMA Secretary) at (614) 846-1400.



OFMA

Ohio Floodplain
Management Association

A division of the
Water Management Association
of Ohio

Building
Partnerships to
Reduce
Flood Damage

Revision 8-00b

OHIO FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Ohio Floodplain Management Association is as follows:

1. To promote public awareness of proper management;
2. To promote a forum for personal understanding of, and professional growth in, floodplain management;
3. To facilitate cooperation and the exchange of information among individuals and government entities involved with floodplain management;
4. To encourage and support research and legislation pertinent to the effective implementation of floodplain management; and
5. To keep individuals who are concerned with proper floodplain management well informed through educational and professional seminars, and to provide for dissemination of information, both general and technical.

PARTICIPATION

If you decide to join OFMA you can become as involved as you choose. There are no requirements for participation. You can attend the OFMA Board meetings and all other OFMA sponsored activities or you could ask to just be placed on the mailing list to receive particular information that your community may be interested in.

For further details on participation in OFMA please contact the OFMA Secretary Kari Mackenbach at (614) 846-1400.

BENEFITS

Affiliation with WMAO

The Water Management Association of Ohio promotes



the comprehensive understanding, conservation and multifaceted use of Ohio's water resources. OFMA has been affiliated with WMAO since 1995. WMAO members receive the "Ohio Water Table" quarterly newsletter as well as numerous other benefits that are associated with being a WMAO member.

Professional Development

Training opportunities for floodplain managers and community officials are on the horizon. It is the short-term objective for Board Members of OFMA to have this type of educational forums available for our members, or anyone else, who desire to know more about floodplain management and proven floodplain management techniques.

Learning From Each Other

Some of the best information comes directly from your "neighbor." Come and learn effective means of appropriately managing development in flood prone areas from other practitioners.

The Big Picture

Floodplain managers have a difficult job. Trying to explain to people the need to prepare for flooding is one of the most difficult tasks a community can undertake. Taking the holistic approach to watershed planning and management has proven to be successful. OFMA is the perfect forum to learn such techniques.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and include it with your payment to:

Water Management Association of Ohio
262 Agricultural Engineering Building
590 Woody Hayes Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43210
(614) 292-6108

NAME:

ORGANIZATION:

TITLE:

MAILING ADDRESS:

OFFICE PHONE:

DUES

| | | |
|----------------|-------|-----------|
| Individual | \$55 | 1 member |
| Organizational | \$150 | 3 members |
| Sustaining | \$400 | 6 members |
| Student | \$5 | 1 member |
| Emeritus | \$25 | 1 member |



OFMA

A Division of WMAO

engineering assistance to communities and state agencies regarding the wise use or Ohio's floodplains.



By Darlene M. Magold,
Geographic Information Management Specialist, Division of Water Floodplain Management Program

Hello! I am the newest member of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Floodplain Management staff. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I joined the Floodplain Management Program in September 2000 as a Geographical Information Management Specialist. My primary responsibility is to assist in the design of a GIS system in order to provide better quality floodplain management services.

I graduated from the University of Dayton (UD) in 1999 with a major in Environmental Geology. At UD, I assisted with the State Aquifer Mapping Project for ODNR's Division of Water. This project was the foundation of my GIS knowledge.

Before coming to ODNR, I worked as an environmental geologist at a consulting firm. There I was responsible for environmental site assessments, which included soil and water quality sampling and analyses. I was also responsible for numerous GIS projects.

I am excited about being a part of tile GIS development and growth in the Floodplain Management Program. 

Workshop Watch



By Christopher M. Thoms,
Senior Environmental Specialist,
Division of Water Floodplain Management Program

Officials from around the state continue to come to our various workshops to learn more about floodplain management. Our new

Substantial Damage Workshop was presented on November 17, 2000 in Cuyahoga County as part of an Ohio Basic Building Code Emergency Planning & Response course. Thanks to Ray Sebastian, Clermont County, Chief Building Official, and Dave Ledvinka, Executive Director, Ohio Council, National Institute of Building Sciences and member of the Ohio Board of Building Standards for their invitation.

A Flood Loss Reduction Workshop was offered on February 27, 2001 in Holmes County. We thank Dennis Fitzpatrick, Holmes County EMA Director for his gracious hospitality. We will again be offering the Flood Loss Reduction Workshop at the Statewide Floodplain Management Conference (see back cover for more information on this year's conference). Contact our office at **(614) 265-6750** for more information or if you would like to be a host for a workshop in your area. We will be happy to answer your questions or provide additional information.

Training Opportunities

Watershed Planning Workshops

Save the date! Four two-day watershed planning workshops will be held throughout Ohio over the next several months.

A workshop was held February 20-21, 2001 in Dayton. The remaining workshops will be held during the following weeks. When the exact dates have been determined the information will be posted on the workshop's website <http://www.glc.org/watershed>:

Akron, OH Week of March 26, 2001
Toledo, OH Week of April 30, 2001
Athens, OH Week of May 21, 2001

The two-day workshops, organized by the Great Lakes Commission, Ohio EPA, Ohio DNR, Tetra Tech, Inc., and the Ohio State University Cooperative Extension, are designed to help watershed organizations develop and implement watershed plans. Community watershed professionals

are invited to participate in one of the four workshops that will be offered throughout Ohio. Cost is \$75, and pre-registration is required.

For more information, please contact Ric Lawson or Sarah Whitney, Great Lakes Commission, at (734) 665-9135 or by Email at rlawsall@glc.org or swhitney@glc.org. Complete information, including the workshop agenda, is available on the workshop's website at <http://www.glc.org/watershed/>

Insurance Agent Seminars 2001

February 27 Cleveland
February 28 Vermillion

April 24-26 Independent Insurance Agents, location to be announced

May 9 Blue Ash
May 15 Youngstown
May 16 Canton
May 17 Cambridge

July 24 Portsmouth*
July 25 Marietta*

(*floodplain administrators' breakout session included)

September 11 Sandusky
September 12 Akron
September 13 Mansfield

To be announced. Consult <http://www.fema.gov> for current schedule

For information on these or other upcoming Agent or Lender seminars call: Rich Slevin, Regional Marketing Manager for the NFIP at **(630) 577-1407**

FEMA offers on-campus & correspondence courses through the **Emergency Management Institute.**

For information or a course catalog for the Floodplain Management Courses at EMI in Emmitsburg, Maryland call **(800) 238-3358** 



**DIVISION OF WATER
1939 FOUNTAIN SQUARE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43224**

Bob Taft
Governor,

Samuel W. Speck,
Director,

James R. Morris,
Chair

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT IN OHIO - STATEWIDE CONFERENCE 2001

A COOPERATIVE EFFORT COORDINATED BY: ODNR, OFMA, & FEMA.

AUGUST 29TH AND 30TH, 2001 RAMADA PLAZA HOTEL & CONFERENCE IN CENTER COLUMBUS, OHIO

GENERAL FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT:

- ODNR'S FLOOD LOSS REDUCTION WORKSHOP
- CODE ENFORCEMENT FROM THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR'S PERSPECTIVE
- WATERSHED PLANNING THROUGH FLOODPLAIN & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
- Floodplain Development Permit Process & Documentation

- Mitigation Planning
- NATURAL BENEFIT OF FLOODPLAINS
- BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT FLOODPLAIN & WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

TECHNICAL FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT:

- FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT THROUGH BUILDING CODES
- PROPER TECHNIQUES OF FILLING IN FLOODPLAINS
- 401 & 404 PERMITTING IN COORDINATION WITH FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
- TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION - GIS IN FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

- RETROFITTING AND FLOODPROOFING STRUCTURES
- SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TRAINING
- DEVELOPMENT IN APPROXIMATE A ZONES
- VIOLATION REMEDY

ENGINEERING IN FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT:

- HOW TO ESTABLISH A FLOODWAY
- COOPERATING TECHNICAL PARTNERS (CTP)

- PROPER STEPS TO DEVELOPING A FLOODWAY ENHANCEMENT ANALYSIS
- GENERATION OF A "FULLY DEVELOPED" ENGINEERING MODEL FOR FLOODWAY DELINEATION

ADDITIONAL SESSIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED...

For more information regarding this conference, please contact: ODNR Division of Water - Floodplain Management Program at 614-265-6750 or E-mail: alicia.silverio@dnr.state.oh.us



**BECOME A
CERTIFIED
FLOODPLAIN
MANAGER!**

THE ASFPb CERTIFIED
FLOODPLAIN MANAGER EXAM
WILL BE OFFERED AT
"FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT IN
OHIO - STATEWIDE
CONFERENCE 2001" ON
THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH,
2001. ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED
AT: [HTTP://WWW.FLOODS.ORG](http://www.floods.org)