



The Antediluvian

Ohio's Floodplain Management Newsletter

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MISSION STATEMENT: The Mission of Floodplain Management Program is 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.

Floodplain Management in Ohio Statewide Conference 2000

By Alicia A. Silverio, CFM
Environmental Specialist, Division of Water -
Floodplain Management Program

On August 30th and 31st, 2000, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Water, Floodplain Management Program sponsored, **Floodplain Management in Ohio – Statewide Conference 2000** in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Ohio Floodplain Management Association (OFMA). The conference was held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus. A total of 195 individuals registered for the conference, with the number of attendees for Day One and Day Two reaching 182 and 165, respectively. Over one-half of conference attendees were community floodplain administrators, with various other local officials, private consultants, and state and federal government representatives present. A total of 18 exhibitors from both the private and public Sectors displayed information regarding their specific interests, services, and projects. Exhibitors included: American Red Cross; Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM); Boss, International; Burgess L. Niple, Ltd.; Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District; Fuller. Mossbarger, Scott. & May (FMSM) Engineers, Licking County Regional Planning; National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Floodplain Management Program (ODNR·FMP); Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Natural Areas & Preserves (ODNR·DNAP); Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA); Ohio Environmental Protection Agency - Division of Financial and Environmental Assistance (OEPA-DEFA); DEFA); Ohio Floodplain Management Association (OFMA); Paul C. Rizzo Associates, Inc.; R.D. Zande & Associates; Tetra Tech

MPS (TTMPS); United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); and United States Geological Survey (USGS). The conference's two-day agenda offered concurrent sessions of both basic and advanced training for diverse parties involved in the field of floodplain management. Presentation topics ranged from Flood Loss Reduction, Generating Approximate A Zones, Code Enforcement, and Letters of Map Change, to Elevation Certificates, Mitigation Planning and Substantial Damage Assessment. Each session was composed to furnish attendees with information and

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training on the issues relevant to current practices and strategies in floodplain management. To provide participants with the most useful range of floodplain management technical information, ODNR assessed which issues seemed most prevalent among the inquiries for technical advisement made to the Floodplain Management Program and planned presentation topics accordingly.

Floodplain Management in Ohio – Statewide Conference 2000 also administered the ASFPM's *Certified Floodplain Manager* (CFM) exam. The CFM is a nationally recognized examination devised to further professional development as well as promote continuing education among those employed within the floodplain management discipline. Fifteen conference participants registered through the ASFPM and took the exam on Day Two of the conference. Exam results will be posted at www.floods.org-the ASFPM website.

[As a result, our own Janice Gartner, George Meyers, and the author, Alicia Silverio are now certified. Congratulations to all *–Editor]*

The ODNR Floodplain Management Program would like to extend its sincerest gratitude for each participant's attendance at **Floodplain Management in Ohio – Statewide Conference 2000**. Surveys to obtain ideas and comments from conference attendees revealed an overall favorable outcome. As a result of such success, the Statewide Floodplain Management Conference could possibly become an annual event. The ODNR Floodplain Management staff welcomes any additional comments or suggestions regarding the conference that you may still wish to offer. Please forward any remaining survey forms or remarks to:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Water, Floodplain Management Program
1939 Fountain Square Drive, Building E-3
Columbus, OH ·43224-1385

If anyone did not receive a conference flyer for the **Statewide Conference 2000** directly and would like to be notified of any 2001 statewide floodplain conference event, please contact ODNR at 614-265-6750. 

National Floodplain Management Agenda Being Redirected...



Are You On Target?

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

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has been a leader in the development of national flood policy directed toward reducing the impact of floods on the natural environment, the built environment and the people of this nation. At their recent conference in Austin, Texas (see related article on page 13) the ASFPM released –*National Flood Programs in Review - 2000*. This document is a response to observations by leading professionals about the status of floodplain management and an identification of national policies and programs which can be improved to support a holistic approach for sustainable wise use of floodplains. **You may be tempted to ignore a national policy document because you are a local floodplain manager. Please don't!**

The ASFPM states that *(t)he solution to escalating flood damage and loss of floodplain resources is a coordinated national policy, with a transfer of assumed responsibility from the federal government to the local and state levels*. In a nutshell, this statement sets the trend for more involvement by us (the state, local, and, individual players). There are other social and economic trends that are helping to define where floodplain management programs and policy should be going. New trends include: *...an appreciation of the natural environment, recognition of the inherent risk of living in flood prone areas (with or without flood control structures), a growing impatience on the part of society to continuously bail out those who choose to live at risk, reductions in federal spending, and ...responsibility for leaving natural resources and healthy ecosystems for the future*. Our challenge will be to view this as an opportunity rather than a problem!

The Association has spent considerable effort and is providing specific actions to help all of us (federal, local, state and private) make improved development decisions and reduce the ultimate impact of flooding. The ASFPM has identified five priority needs to begin a national approach for sustainable communities and sustainable floodplain resources.

- Increase individual, local, and state responsibility and capability;
- Adjust programs and policies to achieve the balance between development needs and critical floodplain resources;
- Improve quality and quantity of flood-related data and access to it;
- Educate, train and increase public awareness concerning floods and floodplains; and
- Evaluate ongoing program and policy success.

The following is a brief summary of the issues and actions. However, to appreciate the depth of each issue and review all the options please review the entire report. The full report can be obtained by calling the Executive Office of the Association of State Floodplain Managers at (608) 274-0123, or by accessing the ASFPM's Website at www.floods.org.

- Increase individual, local, and state responsibility and capability.

Traditionally, flood protection programs have relied heavily on federal planning and implementation. While the National Flood Insurance Program was designed to build the state and local capability and partnership for flood damage reduction, many communities view it as a federal program or *unfunded mandate*. To improve state and local capability for floodplain management, the document identifies the desired state and local roles.

State Role: to provide policy development, technical assistance to communities and coordinate/prioritize and integrate floodplain management issues within the state.

Actions:

- Develop, fund, and implement adequate technical and financial assistance.

- Coordinate National Flood Insurance Program activities,
- Help communities incorporate floodplain management into other community processes (e.g., planning, development, infrastructure).
- Develop floodplain mapping and engineering study capability,
- Encourage professional certification program.

Local Role: the focus of hazard mitigation efforts. Apply comprehensive local plans that deal with watersheds and multiple community issues.

Actions:

- Better integrate floodplain management regulations into overall land use and development plans.
- Involve citizens, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations in mitigation planning to achieve a sustainable community.
- Consider going beyond the minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards such as participation in the *Community Rating System*.

Adjust Programs and Policies: Federal, state, and local policy and law, address floodplain management issues. Some are not effective, some do not achieve more than one goal, and others stop short of eliminating risk (they reduce or minimize).

Actions:

- Protect, maintain and restore riparian zones to create sustainable ecosystems for future generations.
- Use coordinated, watershed based, multi-objective approach for water resource management.
- Apply cost/benefit analysis to nonstructural projects in a way that recognizes avoided damage, land and easements as benefits.
- Develop design and placement standards for infrastructure to avoid flood damage.
- Tie flood disaster relief and other federal funds to a community's participation in and compliance, with NFIP and flood insurance coverage.

- Enforce regulatory standards that protect beyond the NFIP minimums (no-rise floodway, freeboard above the base flood elevation, cumulative tracking of damage or improvement to structures).

Improve Quality, Quantity, and Access to Flood

Data: Since data supports all of the hazard identification and risk assessment capability, it is critical that comprehensive, historical and post-flood damage information be maintained and easily accessible.

Actions:

- Increase funding for map programs.
- Compile accurate numbers of floodprone structures.
- Support data collection, forecasting, geographic information systems, hydrologic analysis and research.
- Support stream gage network and associated data (flow, velocity, depth).
- Allow for use of future conditions hydrology in risk analysis.
- Map all related hazards (dam, levee, and floodwall failure, *etc.*).

Improve Education, Training, and Public

Awareness: The partnership toward sustainable floodplain resources and sustainable communities through reduced hazard susceptibility will only occur with broader education and awareness.

Actions:

- Use certification programs to establish benchmarks for adequate floodplain management knowledge with continuing education focus.
- Convey the uncertainties related to forecasts and risk assessment in flooding.
- Develop a catalog of related information and curricula for sustainable floodplain management tactics.
- Develop clear, meaningful ways to communicate flood risk to the public.

Evaluate Ongoing Program and Policy Success:

Are our efforts reducing overall vulnerability to floods? We continue to see disaster costs and impacts increase. There are unanswered questions about how effective current programs are in

reducing loss and protecting the floodplain resources.

Actions:

- Thorough evaluation of the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Cost/benefit analysis must be adapted to reflect all the benefits even nonstructural actions.
- Evaluate state and local floodplain management policies and how well they are integrated into general planning and development goals.
- Comprehensive maintenance, inspection, replacement or removal programs for existing flood control structures.
- Scientific assessment of current risk-based analysis to support structural projects.

At the state level we are considering these suggestions, opportunities and directions in our development and performance of Division of Water duties. Specifically, we have dedicated our efforts to improving both the state and your local capability to plan for, respond to and mitigate potential risk from flooding. The following actions by Floodplain Management Program staff are recent or planned in support of better floodplain management across Ohio.

Actions:

- Approved Federal-State Annual Cooperative Agreement activities to support NFIP participation by more than 700 Ohio communities,
- Responded to 2,840 requests from federal, state, local agencies and the public concerning floodplain management technical assistance,
- Provided review and coordination for approximately 200 development actions in floodplains throughout Ohio (mobile home park, waste water treatment plant, power facilities, assessment of development in floodways and Corps of Engineers Public Notice Projects).
- Added one professional engineer and one geographic information specialist to program to support expanded engineering service and integrate technology. .

- Achieved national Certified Floodplain Manager status by 60% of professional staff.
- Provided flood Loss Reduction Workshops, regional seminars on floodplain management and flood mitigation, newsletters, Ohio floodplain Management Association support and statewide floodplain managers conference (August 2000) in support of improved local capability, training and awareness.
- Continued partnership with Ohio EMA to support flood mitigation through Severe Weather Committee, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Project Impact and disaster assessment, response and recovery support.
- Developed model codes with standards to achieve flood protection beyond NFIP minimum criteria.
- Developed of Geographic Information Management System to improve flood data collection, interpretation and distribution. Priority applications are inventory of structures in floodplains and hydrologic and hydraulic modeling capability.
- Developed strategic program goals to address the protection of natural benefit and function of floodplains.

The goal of this policy shift and these prescribed actions is to make communities and floodplain resources more sustainable. The approach is based upon holistic perspectives with more responsibility for reducing risk at state, local and individual levels. Our state level priorities are aligning with this national shift and we will continue to support local and individual efforts as well. We look forward to working with you to build communities that have less flood risk potential and maintain floodplains as sustainable ecosystems. Take time to review the ASFPM report in its entirety!!!! 



The Division of Water Modules

You can catch more flies with honey

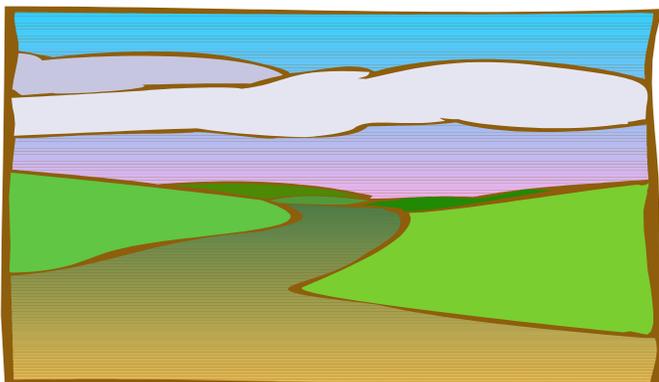
By Christopher M. Thoms, CFM,
Senior Environmental Specialist, Division of Water-
Floodplain Management Program

In a former life as a high school teacher, I worked for a visual learner. During a seemingly doomed attempt to simplify an exam schedule, I unconsciously took a dry marker in hand and laid out a simpler plan on the board over my shoulder. As soon as she saw my (well-formed) proposal, it was accepted. I was reminded of the old saw, *you can catch more flies with honey...*

People appreciate consideration, and it is both considerate and practical to use methods that work. Since most everyone learns by doing (kinesthetically), it makes sense to use this method.

Almost everyone is attracted to scale models and even more so when they do something. For years we at the Floodplain Program Office have looked to buy or build a floodplain demonstration model. In other states these types of models have been used to teach a wide range of floodplain management concepts in classrooms, conventions, and fairs to thousands of people.

At this year's Ohio State Fair, in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' pavilion, the Division of Water in cooperation with the Office of Communications presented not one, but four freestanding modules demonstrating what we at the Division of Water do, and these modules all do something. Dams fail, compliant structures withstand, noncompliant structures collapse, and



trees fall as water flows through, each module showing the variety of areas our Division is involved with and the even greater variety of resources we offer to fulfill our mission. *to Ensure the Wise Management of Ohio's Water Resources.*

One module demonstrates Lake Erie shoreline management, an upground reservoir, streambank management, and groundwater management. Another contrasts *good* and *bad* dam safety practices while another demonstrates historic canals and modern locks. Of course, one module demonstrates floodplain management (the most valuable from our biased perspective).

After many years of waiting and planning, we are pleased to add these modules to our education toolbox. In their first month, they have already traveled across the state appearing at several events. At the recent state floodplain management convention, many of you saw how they can effectively demonstrate wise water resources management concepts. We look forward to their continued effective use. 

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Replaces Nationwide Permit

By Janice Gartner, CFM,
Environmental Specialist
Division of Water, Floodplain Management

Effective June 7, 2000, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) replaced *Nationwide Permit* (NWP) 26, which permitted discharges of dredged or fill material into headwaters and isolated waters of the United States, including wetlands. Nationwide Permit 26 was the permit most frequently used for potential wetland impacts.

The changes to the nationwide permit program were made to protect the nation's wetlands and to reduce flood damages through the continuation of natural stream and floodplain functions. The new and modified nationwide permits do not relieve local communities of their requirements to review development (including fill) as part of their permitting process under the National Flood Insurance Program.

Five new nationwide permits were issued and six existing nationwide were modified to replace NW. 26. The replacement nationwide permits are activity-specific and authorize many of the same activities permitted under NWP 6. Terms and conditions are placed upon the activity-specific permits to minimize negative effects to the aquatic environment.

The new nationwide permits are:

NWP 39 - Residential, Commercial and Residential Developments
NWP 41 - Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches
NWP 42 - Recreational facilities
NWP 43 - Storm Water Management Facilities
NWP 44 - Mining Activities

The modified nationwide permits are:

NWP 3 - Maintenance
NWP 7 - Outfall Structures and Maintenance
NWP 12 - Utility Activities
NWP 14 - Linear Transportation Crossings
NWP 27 - Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities
NWP 40 - Agricultural Activities

The limit of impacts to waters of the U.S. for most of the new and modified NWPs is one-half acre, reduced from previous maximum of three acre. Additionally, notification to the district engine required for impacts to waters of the U.S. greater than one-tenth acre, reduced from the previous one-third acre. A 300 linear foot limit for excavating and filling stream beds has been imposed on NWPs 39, 40, 42 and 43.

Additionally, the USCE has revised modified general conditions and add general conditions to these nationwide permits. These NWP general conditions protect designated critical resource waters of the United States within 100-year floodplains.

General Condition 26 addresses FEMA-mapped 100-year floodplains. Activities within the 100-year floodplains are separated into two areas; headwaters and below headwaters. Headwaters are non-tidal streams, lakes, and impoundments that are part of a surface tributary system to interstate or navigable

waters of the United States with an average annual flow of less than 5 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Below headwaters has the same definition but has an average annual flow of 5 cfs or greater.

Headwaters

Permanent above grade fill under NWP 12, 14, 29, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44 is authorized in the flood fringes of FEMA-mapped 100-year floodplains located within headwater stream, provided the permittee notifies the district engineer and provides documentation the activity complies with FEMA or FEMA-approved local floodplain construction requirements. Permanent, above-grade fill and under NWP 29, 39, 40, 42, 43 and 44 is not authorized in FEMA's designated floodways of the 100-year floodplain. However, the use of NWP 12 and 14 is allowed within floodways of FEMA-designated 100-year floodplain located within headwater streams, provided the permittee notifies the district engineer and provides documentation the activity complies with FEMA or FEMA-approved local floodplain construction requirements.

Below the Headwaters

Permanent above-grade fill under NWP 29, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44 is prohibited within the FEMA-mapped 100-year floodplain below the headwaters of any stream. Above-grade fill under NWP 12 and 14 is allowed within the FEMA-mapped 100-year floodplain below the headwaters of a stream, provided the permittee notifies the district engineer and provides documentation the activity complies with FEMA or FEMA-approved local floodplain construction requirements.

If a 100-year floodplain has not been mapped on the *Flood Insurance Rate Maps* (FIRMs) published by FEMA or on FEMA-approved local floodplain maps for a particular tributary, the provisions of General Condition 26 do not apply.

Additionally, the Ohio EPA has imposed Section 401 Regional Conditions to the Nationwide Permits. These regional conditions can be found at the USACE website address <http://www.lhr.usace.army.mil/or/permits/prop_reg_con.html>. More information on the nationwide permits can be found at the USACE website address <<http://www.lhr.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/>>. 

Requesting Flood Insurance Study Backup Data

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

Flood Insurance Studies and maps produced under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provide the basis for floodplain management programs and regulations in Ohio. Floodplain managers and developers utilize this information in making sound land use decisions. When projects are proposed in the regulatory *floodway* or high velocity flow portion of the 100-year floodplain, NFIP regulatory criteria adopted by most communities require that hydrologic and hydraulic engineering analysis be performed to determine the impact of such development on the base flood elevation. In order for this to be accomplished, NFIP Flood Insurance Study technical backup data should be obtained for the analysis. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which administers the NFIP, provides this detailed technical information to requestors under cost-recovery procedures using an archival contractor. The information may consist of paper copies of NFIP maps, topographical work maps, *Letters of Map Change*, and microfiche, computer diskettes, tapes, CD-ROMs, and user manuals for hydrologic and hydraulic analyses used in the ***Flood Insurance Study***. In many cases, nominal fees are charged to private firms and individuals for information search and retrieval.

However, in certain situations communities may obtain this information at no cost. Specific procedures are available online from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/Frm_fees.htm>. In general, community officials can request this information for free if they specify it is for community floodplain management only, and not for a third party. This includes Preliminary ***Flood Insurance Study*** information requested during the NFIP statutory 90-day appeals period following release of the data to the public. The information can then be utilized for planning and, if finalized, can be used for regulatory purposes to determine the

impact of proposed development on the floodway and base flood elevation. The ODNR Floodplain Management Program also maintains a library of older *Flood Insurance Study* technical data on microfiche, some of which has been superseded by newer or revised *Flood Insurance Studies*. For more information about obtaining *Flood Insurance Study* technical backup data, contact ODNR Floodplain Management Program at (614) 265-6750.💧

[The following is FEMA news release #00-132, dated August 25, 2000]

Training For New Elevation Certificate Now Available On Flood Insurance Program's Website



WASHINGTON - Agents can take advantage of state-of-the-art, interactive, training on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) website, Federal Insurance Administrator Jo Ann Howard announced today.

In-depth training on the new flood insurance Elevation Certificate (EC) introduced last May is the first of a series of on-line training being developed by the NFIP that insurance producers can use on their own computers at their convenience, 24 hours a day, Howard said. The training can be accessed through the NFIP's website <<http://www.fema.gov/nfip>>.

The self-paced, interactive design allows agents to skip over material they already know and concentrate on areas that need more emphasis. Frequent practical exercises help agents to check and reinforce their learning. The comprehensive training module contains multiple links to other resources, such as the *NFIP Flood Insurance Manual*, and also incorporates an annotated EC that can be used as a handy reference. Upon completing the module and passing a mastery test, agents will receive a letter of completion from the NFIP.

This simple but practical approach to learning will enhance insurance agents' ability to provide complete service to their clients, as well as help to

eliminate costly errors and omissions claims, Howard said.

The Federal Insurance Administration, which is part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), developed its new EC after gathering comments from surveyors, architects, floodplain managers, *Write Your Own* companies, and insurance agents. Instructions have been clarified, building diagrams revised, and detailed questions added about property location, *Flood Insurance Rate Map* data, and survey results.

The revised EC provides space to describe the building's use and an option to provide latitude and longitude coordinates. New elevation requirements have been added to the EC. Agents will determine the lowest floor by comparing the surveyor's information with that provided by the property owner for consistency.

Additional training in the use of the revised EC will be offered at NFIP agent workshops across the country. Schedules and registration information for all workshops during the period August-December 2000 are listed on the website at <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/a_workshop.htm>.

The new EC form and instruction packet are available from the FEMA Distribution Center at **1-800-480-2520** (ask for FEMA Form 81-31). They are also included in the May 2000 revision to the *NFIP Flood Insurance Manual* and can be viewed or downloaded from the NFIP website.

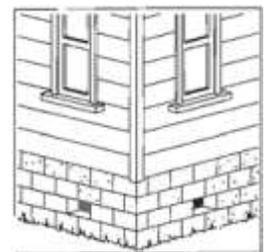
[Editor's Note: The deadline for mandatory use of the new EC is October 1, 2000.] 💧

Openings in Foundation Walls

Technical Bulletin # 1-93

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 known Base Flood Elevation (BFE), that the structure be anchored, that utilities be flood-protected, 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.

For those who choose to elevate on foundation walls with interior grade below BFE, Technical Bulletin #1-93 *Openings in Foundation Walls*, provides guidance for the proper construction of the minimum required¹ openings. FEMA Bulletin #1-93 provides hydrostatic design guidance for the minimum appropriate application, construction, and documentation of both engineered and non-engineered openings in structures elevated by foundation walls, and reviews additional necessary planning considerations for hydrodynamic forces.

For non-engineered openings (in areas where hydrodynamic forces do not preclude them) your local flood damage prevention regulations-and the minimum NFIP-standards-require at least one square inch of opening per one square foot of space per each enclosed area.² The bottom of these openings may be no more than one foot above the adjacent grade. Though louvers, screens, or other covers may be used, the openings must be free from any blockage or impediment to the automatic flow of water into or out of the enclosed area(s). There are no commercially available cover products specifically designed to be compliant with your flood hazard reduction regulations while still providing security and easy access for post-flood cleaning.

Caution: Do not grade around the foundation wall so as to create a *basement* as defined in your regulations. The inside grade should always be at or above the outside grade at least on one side of the building.

All structures placed in the SFHA are placed at risk

¹ These NFIP-standards are found at Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter 60.3(c). Bulletin #1-93 gives applicable CFR excerpts

² In buildings with multiple enclosures, sufficient openings for each must be provided.

whether elevated or not. Your local flood damage prevention regulations can help reduce but do not eliminate those risks. For increased flood protection (and the additional benefit of reduced insurance premiums) many communities require elevation above the BFE. As with all proposed SFHA-development, developers should be directed to check with their local floodplain management official.

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.



By Chad M. Berginnis, CFM,
Supervisor, Division of Water - Floodplain
Management Program

Although you may not have them often, public hearings are an inevitable fact of life for a floodplain administrator. Variance requests will occur, and a **floodplain variance board** may have limited experience in such matters - especially if they have never met or are a board that does not hear other types of requests. Whether the issue involves floodplain regulations, zoning, or subdivision regulations, a hearing by local governmental bodies is one time that the interested public can see its local government in action - and the time when public reputations are made. Often the public perception of a board or commission is negative because hearings or meetings of that body were not effective.

I attended a particular board of zoning appeals (BZA) hearing several years ago that could be described as *how not to conduct a hearing*. The meeting was being held for a single variance request, and about thirty concerned citizens were present. The chairman did not control the meeting and, about three hours later, the meeting concluded without resolution. Over the years, I have attended and participated in numerous public hearings. The

following list includes items that, if implemented, will increase your likelihood for an effective public hearing.

Prepare the Meeting Room

To the extent that you can, make sure that there are an appropriate number of seats, that any equipment needed (*i.e.*, overhead projector, microphone) is working properly, and that the room is comfortable. I have even attended a hearing that the board provided cookies and beverages to the public.

Prepare Agenda

Have an agenda prepared for the meeting - not only for the board members but also for the public. Preferably, have paper copies available; however, you can also put the agenda on a chalkboard, dry erase board, or flip chart if one is available. An agenda could also include hearing *rules* (see below).

Provide Adequate Public Notice

Making sure that proper notice has been provided for the meeting is absolutely necessary. The **Ohio Open Meetings Act** requires public bodies to provide sufficient notice of their meetings (see the Ohio Attorney General's website at www.ag.state.oh.us). In addition to violating the act, if no notice is provided, people who hear about the meeting *through the grapevine* will usually not be very happy because they may think that the board has something to hide.

Open the Hearing by Reviewing the Agenda & Rules

Although a written agenda may have been provided, a verbal review of it reinforces the fact that the board means business and sets the tone that the meeting will be orderly. What do I mean by the *rules*? Typically, the rules detail how the public will be allowed to interact with the board: For instance, your variance board may have a rule that comments may be no more than five minutes in length, a rule that a person wishing to speak must state their name for the record, a rule that establishes the order of presentation during a particular hearing (*i.e.*, summary by code administrator, questions by the board, comments by the applicant, comments by interested citizens, *etc.*)

The Chairperson Must Run the Meeting

Now, I am not saying the chairperson should *run away* with the meeting either. The chairperson must preserve order in the meeting by ensuring that the rules are being followed, that time limits are being generally adhered to, and especially that discussion or questions only pertain to the issue at hand. I have been to far too many hearings where a citizen would make comments that really had nothing to do with the agenda item being discussed. If the chairperson doesn't control irrelevant discussion, the meeting will spiral out of control.

All Board Members Should Stay Focused on the Issues

Often, citizens attending a particular hearing have had limited or no interest with local governmental officials. First impressions are lasting! I've attended hearings where board members were finishing their french fries during the hearing! At others, I've seen board members get up and talk to other board members while a citizen was providing comments.

Keep Good Records

In nearly every formal hearing, an official record of the meeting is required. Some boards have someone take minutes, some record the hearing (so a transcript can be prepared later if necessary), some have a court reporter present to take a transcript of the meeting, and some do a combination of these. If a person decides to appeal the decision of the board, it will be done pursuant to Chapter 2506 of the Ohio Revised Code. Under Chapter 2506, the hearing of an appeal takes place in the county court of common pleas and is confined to the transcript as filed. As part of the record keeping, a board should also maintain a sign-in sheet for its hearings. Public hearings are interesting creatures, Other than hearings where nobody shows up, I have yet to experience two that were the same. By incorporating some of these tips, your community can have more effective public hearings. 💧



[The following article is a reprint from *News & Views*, August 2000]

Guidance on the NFIP and the New International Building Codes

reported by Rebecca Quinn, RCQuinn Consulting, Inc.

Most communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program do so through *stand-alone* ordinances that typically are administered by a planning office. The best way to achieve one of the NFIP's objectives-guiding development away from flood-prone areas-is through planning and zoning. However, once the decision to build in a floodplain is made, then managing flood hazards involves designing and building for the anticipated conditions. And that involves the engineer, the architect, and the building official working together to produce a properly elevated structure with protected service equipment and flood-resistant materials.

The three major building code organizations, working through the **International Code Council**, have developed the *International Code Series* (I-Codes™). Due to the coordinated efforts of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Society of Civil Engineers, for the first time, a model building code includes provisions that are fully consistent with the National flood Insurance Program (see, *News & Views*, April 1999, p.1 and February 2000, p.1). Communities now can use the I-Codes™ to fulfill their commitment to the NFIP.

To help building officials and floodplain managers, a new guidance publication is now available to explain how the NFIP and the I-Codes™ are related. Prepared with support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Reducing Flood Losses through the International Code Series: Meeting the Requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program* includes worksheets, an overview of the NFIP, references, crosswalks, and a summary of the implications of adopting the I-Codes™. A worksheet to assess the community's current approach to managing floodplains is included. Another worksheet outlines suggested decision items and topics to be discussed during coordination meetings with other agencies in the community to decide how best to

integrate floodplain management with the building safety department.

The publication also outlines implications of adopting the flood-resistant provisions of the I-Codes™ and offers suggestions for options to modify the codes to incorporate higher standards. There is also a chapter outlining the various responsibilities a community accepts when it joins the NFIP, including record keeping, evaluating certain floodplain impacts, map-related duties, collection of certain certifications, and inspections.

With respect to the I-Codes™ themselves, the publication includes two detailed crosswalks comparing excerpts from the: IBC®. The flood resistant provisions are found primarily in Section 1612, and Appendix G includes the non-building provisions of the NFIP. In the International Residential Code™, most of the flood provisions are found in Section 327.

Copies of *Reducing Flood Losses through the International Code Series: Meeting the Requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program* can be obtained through BOCA, ICBO, and SBCCI. 

State Severe Weather Safety Poster Winners Honored at State Fair



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

Hugh Dresbach, a 3rd-grader from Circleville's Salt Creek School is this year's Overall State Severe Weather Poster Winner. Hugh-along with 51 other students-was honored at the Ohio State Fair by the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.

The State Winners for 1st Grade are **Abbey Pilgrim** of Englewood's Salem Christian Academy and **April Sand** of Massillon's Sauder Elementary; for 2nd Grade is **Jess Stemple** also of Englewood's Salem Christian Academy; for 3rd Grade are **Taurean Smith** of Toledo's Spring Elementary and **Natalie Price** of North Canton's Sauder Elementary Elementary; for 4th Grade is **Sara Mirolli** of Aurora's Craddock School; for 5th Grade are **Emily Ramsey** of Wellsville's Southern Local Intermediate, **Seairra Grim** of Salineville's Southern Local Intermediate, and **Christopher Speakman** also of

Circleville's Salt Creek Elementary; for 6th Grade is **Alicia Bennett** also of Englewood's Salem Christian Academy; and for 10th Grade is **Lisa Bush** of Dayton's Jefferson High School. The **Regional Winners** for 1st Grade are, **Heidy McMullen** of Blanchester's Village Christian School for the Southwest Region, **Ambrose Felder** from Spring Elementary for the Toledo/Marion area, **Andrea Etchen** of Edgerton's St. Mary's School for the Northwest Region, **Demetria Vassar** of Wintersville Elementary for the East Central, **Lindsey Miller** of Sugar Grove's Berne Union School for the Central Region, and **Rebecca Aronhalt** of Akron's Summit Christian School for the Northeast Region; for 2nd Grade are **Ashley Carter** of West Union's North Adams Elementary for the Southwest Region, **Amanda Weir** of Galion's St. Joseph Parish School for the Toledo/Marion area, **Sara Herman** of Edgerton's St. Mary's School for the Northwest Region, **Chelsea Furda** of Steubenville's Wintersville Elementary for the East Central Region, **Maggie Mathias** of Sugar Grove's Berne Union School for Central Region, and **Brandon Lambert** of Aurora's Craddock Elementary for the Northeast Region, for 3rd Grade are **Kate Sand** of Rosemount's Notre Dame Elementary for the Southwest

Region, **Cody Herman** of Edgerton's St. Mary's School for the Northwest Region, **Hillary Lorton** of Toledo's Trinity Lutheran School for the Toledo/Marion, **Mackenzie Hiemstra** of Sandusky's Sts. Peter and Paul for the North Central Region, **Drew Longenecker** of Dayton's Salem Christian Academy for the West Central Region, and **David Ramsey** of Wellsville's Southern Local Intermediate for the East Central Region; for 4th Grade are **Leena Weekly** of Circleville's Salt Creek School for the Central Region, **Grant Michalski** from Waterville Primary for the Toledo/Marion; **Jamie Hunt** of Lorain's Durling School for the North Central Region, **Micah Bennett** of Englewood's Salem Christian Academy for the West Central Region, **Nicholas Warnock** of Cambridge's St. Benedict for the East Central Region, **Alex Newman** of Bryon's St. Mary's School for the Northwest Region, and **Allen Stanforth** of Pleasant Plain's Village Christian School for the Southwest Region; for 5th Grade are **Elliott Truss** of Toledo's Trinity Lutheran School for the Toledo/Marion area, **Kyle Taylor** from Durling School for the North Central Region, **Alex Thiel** of Edgerton's St. Mary's School for the Northwest Region, **Chelsea Schillig** of Alliance's Marlboro Elementary School for the Northeast Region, **Brandon Lechner** of Milford's **Charles L Seipelt** Elementary for the Southwest Region, **Shannon Laycox** of Union's Salem Christian Academy for the West Central Region, and **Katelyn Holzschuh** of Circleville's Salt Creek Elementary for the Central Region; for 6th Grade are **Amanda Hedrick** of Lorain's Durling School for the North Central Region, **Jessica Miller** of Cambridge's St. Benedict for the Central Region, **Ryan Roberts** of Proctorville's Fairland West Middle School for the Southeast Region, **Candace James** of Winchester's North Adams Elementary for the Southwest Region, **Shunta Gaston** of Toledo's Spring Elementary for the Toledo/ Marion area, **Joshua Drummond** from Pickerington Middle School for the Central Region, **Elizabeth Kurdilla** of Warren's Notre Dame School for the Northeast Region, and **Ashlee Fellers** of Hicksville's St. Mary's School for the Northwest.

Like all activities during the two Severe Weather Awareness Weeks, 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.

Congratulations to all the students who helped remind us of the importance of Severe Weather Safety Awareness.



The *Other* Severe Weather Awareness Week

Governor Robert Taft has proclaimed November 12th through the 18th as Severe (Winter) Weather Awareness Week. 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.

The OCSWA consists of representatives from National Weather Service, Ohio Departments of Education – Health - Natural Resources - Public Safety, County Emergency Management Director's Association, Red Cross, Ohio Insurance Institute, and the Ohio News: Network. These organizations are committed to doing something to promote severe weather safety.

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 or the Ohio Emergency Management Agency at (614) 799-3695 or download the information from the Ohio EMA Website at <state.oh.us/odps/division/ema/tfsc99.pdf>

CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS



By Chad M. Berginnis, CFM,
Supervisor,
Division of Water - Floodplain Management Program

SUCCESS! I am pleased to report that the statewide floodplain management conference held August 30 and 31, was very successful. There were many objectives of the conference; however, I would like to focus on two of them: Facilitating an idea/information exchange and building local floodplain management capability.

One of the most important elements of any conference I have ever attend, opportunity to meet with others who have similar experiences to my own and try to *pick their brains* on any number of issues. Although regional floodplain management workshops have been held in the past, the state conference was the first time that floodplain administrators statewide have had the opportunity to meet. I found myself in many discussions with people at the conference and was able to learn a lot from their experiences. The only thing I regret is not being able to discuss issues with more conference attendees! The collection of floodplain management knowledge and experience was amazing, as more than 100 communities re represented at the conference. Surprisingly, there were many local floodplain administrators with more than ten years' experience, and four of them with more than twenty years' experience. However, more than 600 NFIP participating communities were not represented. If your community was among those not represented, be sure to make plans to attend next year!

Secondly, the conference was an opportunity to build local floodplain management capability. From the perspective of ODNR's Floodplain Management Program, this was the most important objective. Successful floodplain management in Ohio is dependent on successful local programs. Certainly, the Floodplain Management Program has focused many of its resources on building local capability for years. Part of our mission statement reads *-To provide leadership to local governments, state agencies, and interested parties toward cooperative management of Ohio's floodplains...* To date, the

statewide conference may have been one of the single best opportunities to build local floodplain management capability. ODNR was a proud sponsor of and participant in the statewide conference, and is committed to assisting with future conferences.

Many people devoted a tremendous amount of time to ensure that the conference was a success. I would like to thank all of the speakers, without which we would not have had a conference. Also, I would like to thank the Federal Emergency Management Agency and all of the other conference sponsors who provided financial assistance. Finally, I would like to thank the board of the Ohio Floodplain Management Association and staff who took the idea of a conference and transformed it into reality.

Allow me to close by reiterating the challenge issued by ODNR's Director Speck. In his keynote address at the conference, Director Speck challenged participants to tell us what communities need. Through communication, participation, and partnership, we can all work together to achieve effective floodplain management in Ohio. 💧



Howdy!

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

Back in June, Chad Berginnis, George Meyers, Peter Finke and I (all of ODNR's Division of Water) attended the annual Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Convention held in Austin (*as in Texas, see title*) this year.

In short(s)-it was never below 100°-we attended workshops on education, engineering, mapping, mitigation planning, multi-objective management, policy formulation, and updates. Speakers and presenters from private interests and government agencies shared concerns, complaints, accomplishments, and new concepts with an emphasis on the continued and increasing importance of floodplain management for the upcoming millennium.

Much of the value of these conferences is the ability to compare and contrast, to benefit from the experience of others. We were shown innovative products that may help reduce the impact of flood hazards to buildings in Ohio floodplains and we were able to showcase examples of what has been done in Ohio.

Our own **Chad Berginnis**, and **Jake Greuey** of Licking County Planning passed the Certified Floodplain Managers Exam at Austin. Congratulations. 



Stream Management & Watershed Urbanization Workshop

October 17 -18, 2000

Louisville, Kentucky, Seelbach Hilton Hotel

This two-day workshop emphasizes the practical aspects of stream restoration as a strategy to meet traditional concerns of professionals who address flood, habitat, water quality, biological diversity, and erosion concerns associated with urban streams. **Day One** will provide background on stream management and restoration efforts undertaken to date in the Louisville area and nationally; provide overview of restoration engineering, fluvial geomorphology and soil bioengineering design methods; and introduce restoration processes and methods pertinent to urbanizing watersheds. **Day Two** will discuss the concepts and methods for designing stream restoration projects, review recent cases in innovative stream management and restoration project designs, and tour local stream sites. The lead instructor is Randolph J Stowe of Biotechnical Erosion Control, Harvard, Illinois.

Target Audience: Local government, state, and federal agency staff (wetland, river, lake, stream or public land management, planning, engineering); non-profit organizations; academics; consultants; landowners and others.

Workshop Training Goal: To promote and build the capabilities of local governments, states, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and others in the Midwestern U.S. to protect and restore rivers, streams and associated wetlands in urbanizing watersheds. Attendees will gain increased understanding of river stability, watershed context and fluvial geomorphologic concepts; address problem solving and prevention

relative to natural channel design; learn how to initiate, plan, fund, and implement a stream or river restoration project; and develop a local network of federal/state/local agency staff; non-profits, academics, consultants; and others interested in setting and achieving realistic goals for stream management and restoration.

This workshop is conducted by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) with support from the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water. ASFPM is dedicated to providing information and training to those who work to reduce flood losses in the nation and has been conducting similar workshops nationally and regionally since 1980. This is the fourth in a series of workshops to address watershed issues as they relate to river, floodplain, and wetland restoration.

For more information about this workshop, contact the ASFPM at (608) 274-0123 or www.floods.org 



Roll Call

*Our Floodplain Management Program Office staff adds another new face, with yet on more to go. In keeping with what is becoming a regular feature of **The Antediluvian**, our latest arrival introduces himself with the following article. [Editor]*

By Steve A. Ferryman, ,
Environmental Specialist, Division of Water
Floodplain Management Program

Hi. My name is Steve Ferryman. I am the newest addition to The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Floodplain Management Program. Some of you may know me from my internship with the ODNR Water Resources Section, but for those of you who do not, allow me to introduce myself.

I am a recent graduate from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Resource Management with an emphasis in Water Resources. My last 13 months of school I was an intern at the Division of Water where my main duty was to provide information and technical assistance to our customers about groundwater. I also got the opportunity to survey and plant vegetative buffer zones, assist groundwater pump tests, and represent the Division of Water at public educational events.

I have been busy the last couple of weeks familiarizing myself with FEMA regulations and

NFIP publications. I have also been working on a FEMA project to determine whether flood hazards exist in communities that currently do not have maps floodplain maps and identify their mapping needs.

I am excited about the opportunity to work with local floodplain administrators and the public to help ensure the wise use of the many natural resources provided by floodplains. I accept the challenges that a career in floodplain management presents, and look forward to working toward healthy Ohio floodplains. 

Workshop Watch



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

Flood Loss Reduction Workshops were offered on April 11th in Lake County, May 11th in Adams County and August 30th at the Statewide Conference:

Thanks to **Tom Denbow**, Chagrin Watershed Partners, Inc. for his support & for arranging the beautiful facilities at Penitentiary Glen Metropark in Lake County. Thanks also to the staff at Penitentiary Park for their gracious hospitality.

Thanks to **David Lindsay** and **Brenda Schumer** of the Adams County Health Department for their willingness to facilitate the workshop in West Union.

More than 100 officials from around the state gathered to learn more about floodplain management.

New for this year, we will be offering additional workshops on a range of topics including. **Substantial Damage Assessment** and **Mitigation Planning**.

Contact our office for more information or if you would like to be a host for a **Flood Loss Reduction Workshop** in your area. We will be happy to answer your questions or provide additional information. 



Floodplain Management Training Available



Insurance Lender Seminar

9:00 A.M. - Noon

Independent Insurance Agents of Ohio
1330 Dublin Road (SR 33)
In Columbus, November 8th

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

ODNR will offer

Flood Loss Reduction Workshops

For information, call ODNR at (614) 265-6750

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

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

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Christopher M. Thoms, Editor.

Please send address corrections, additions, and personnel or office changes to our offices at 1939 Fountain Square E-3 Columbus, Ohio 43224



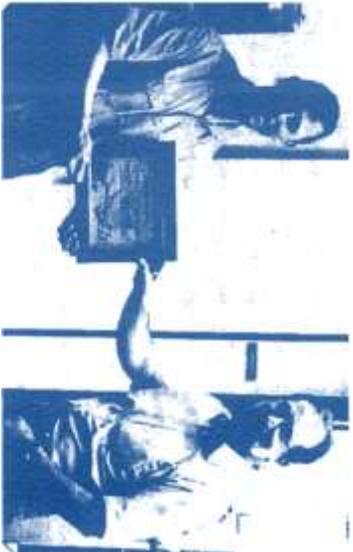
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Director,

James R. Morris,
Chief

RECOGNITION



PETER G. FINKE

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

This summer, Peter Finke (pictured on left) was honored for outstanding career contributions to the field of floodplain management, at both state and

national levels. For those of you who may not know him, Peter was the long time administrator of the Ohio Floodplain Management Program, dating from the late 1970s to the early 1990s, and currently serves as Assistant Chief in the ODNR Division of Water.

He was instrumental in securing Federal Emergency Management Agency funding beginning nearly twenty years ago to help support the Division of Water as state NFIP coordinating agency. During his tenure, the Program expanded its staff to increase community technical assistance, and the majority of NFIP communities received their initial *Flood Insurance Studies* and maps. Thanks to Pete's efforts, more than 93% of Ohio's floodprone communities are participating in the NFIP.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in Ohio floodplain management, Pete received the Ohio Floodplain Management Program's *Award for Distinguished Service* in May. The award included a commemorative plaque and a nifty gift of a German weather station (Pete was born in Germany) obtained surreptitiously from Cold War military surplus by ODNR staff. We understand Pete is still trying to translate the instructions, but we hope he will eventually provide us with climatological data and tell us when the next flood will hit!

Pete has also made significant contributions to the national Floodplain management agenda, most recently serving for the past several years on the ASFPM Flood Insurance Committee. In June at the ASFPM Annual Conference in Austin, Pete received the ASFPM's *Jerry Louthain Award for Distinguished Service*, along with John Ivey of Texas. Congratulations Pete!

