



THE LIGHTNING ROD

Spring 2015 The Official Newsletter of the Texas Floodplain Management Association

Volume 20, Issue 1

From the Desk of the Executive Director

A JOURNEY DOWN LIFE'S PATHWAY

As we journey down the pathway of life, we often come to forks in the road and choices have to be made. Should you go on the path to the left or to the right or continue straight ahead? We all make these choices many times during our journey here on Earth. Often, our choices lead to changes and sometimes changes are good and other times they are not. But change is inevitable. It is part of life's development. We start out young, immature but yet full of energy, passion and a desire to find and make our way in this world and change moves us in that direction – right or wrong.



For better or worse, we have all laid the bricks on our pathway that leads us to this place, this point in time. And here today, we stand looking forward not knowing what lies ahead but filled with hope that we still have time to continue our journey and secure our legacy in life. Our lives have been filled with joy, sorrows, great achievements, bitter disappointments, a sense of loss, and a sense of gain, but yet it is our path we forged and it brings smiles to our faces, contentment in our hearts and knowledge that we have waged a good fight and we have made a difference. Now the challenge is to build on our legacy and when our path comes to an end, we step off knowing that together we changed lives, our own and others and made a better world for all.

So too has the journey been for TFMA. We started so young back in 1988 with a prayer, a hope and most of all a dream as to what TFMA could and would become. A hand full of dreamers gathered together and began to build their dream, their vision of an organization that would grow and prosper and also make a difference in people's lives by working together to save life and property from nature's wrath – FLOODS. Over the years TFMA became a new type of family for us, one that may not have blood lines, but one that shares similar desires, passions, dedication and commitment to do our best and leave a lasting legacy. And like our own personal journeys, forks in the road lie ahead. Changes are going to happen and we must prepare and plan to help us make the right choices as we move forward.

One big change is that so many of our early family members are growing old, reaching the end of their careers and looking towards retirement. I too already find myself in that group. It is so amazing to me that I started my "flood" career back in 1970 and now 45 years later, I am still fighting the good fight. Where did all that time go? How did it go so fast? Did I do my best? And most important, how much time is left? No one knows the answer to that last question, so we must choose to make the best of what is left – one day at a time, one step at a time. Folks, I am like a couple of verses in country music – "I am too young to be this damn old" and my favorite – "I just keep on rolling with the flow!"

Let's take a look at some of the changes that lay ahead for TFMA. First and foremost, is our election of Board members. Who will lead TFMA into the future? Sadly, our current President, Diane Calhoun will be ending her term and Region 4 Director, Lynn Lowell has made the decision to step down. These two individuals have been mainstays of the TFMA family for so long. Providing guidance, wisdom and direction to the Board and the Association. Of course there are many others who have come and gone and left us with their own legacy, and for these family members, we are eternally grateful and thankful that our paths crossed. There are several actions being considered to recognize these individuals.

First, TFMA has developed a Life Membership Category to recognize those individuals who retired and yet want to maintain their membership in the TFMA family. Second, working with ASFPM we want to develop a "retired status" for CFMs. Much like our military veterans use today. Our goal is to make sure we retain our aging members as long as possible. They are the life blood of the family and still capable of providing advice, guidance and passion for the younger generation of members.

Another action to watch for will occur at the Spring Conference. The Board will recognize 12 TFMA members with the Pioneer Award. These immortal twelve are founding members of and have remained members for over 25 years. Sadly, one of the twelve passed away last year. I hope you will join us in Dallas to help honor and recognize these precious individuals.

I could go on and on about the future of TFMA, but let's take a short time out and give the newly elected Board time to take their place in the leadership of TFMA. At this point in time, TFMA is in great shape, membership wise and financially sound. We closed out the year with over 2100 members, making TFMA the largest state floodplain management association in the Country. We certified over 1800 CFMs and our CFM program keeps growing well beyond our early dreams for this important program. The challenge now is to retain our current members and bring in more new members. Growth is the life blood of our family. You are the life blood of this family.

I end this with a heartfelt THANK YOU to all who have supported and led TFMA throughout these years. Thank You Diane, Lynn, John, Mike, Terry, Penny and the list goes on and on. My life and the TFMA family would not have been the same without you all in it. God Bless You and God Bless TFMA!

Roy D. Sedwick, CFM
TFMA Executive Director

Floodwater Under the Bridge

(This article was originally printed in November of 2000)

Shoring Up TFMA's Direction for Year 2001

From the desk of Roy Sedwick, CFM, TFMA Executive Director



The Lightning Rod

Questions, items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to:

TFMA Executive Office
P.O. Box 1237
Cedar Park, TX 78630
(512) 260-1366
TFMA1@att.net



**Deadline for
The Lightning Rod Summer
Issue is May 22, 2015.**

At the general business meeting of the Texas Floodplain Management Association held on June 19, 2000 in Austin, Texas in conjunction with the ASFPM National Flood Conference, the membership of TFMA voted to conduct at least two conferences a year. The annual spring conference will continue to be our major training effort and will cover about 3 ½ days at selected times, dates and places across Texas. The Fall Conference will last two days and will feature at least a full day of training to meet continuing education requirements for the Certified Floodplain Manager Program. In addition to the training, there will be time set aside for TFMA committees to meet and plan their activities for the following year. At both conferences, TFMA will offer the new Texas National Exam for the CFM Program.

Primary goals of the TFMA for year 2001 is to improve communication as an organization, develop a short and long-term plan for the Association, and to increase membership. You as a member play a primary role in floodplain management in this great State by involving yourself in the TFMA. Foremost for the New Year will be shoring up communication between the Board, Regional Managers, Committee Chairs and Association members. If you are not a Committee member, think about becoming one and, more importantly, *participate in its activities*. As a member, what else can you do to help? Promote the TFMA by sharing the newsletter with industry-related organizations in your area, such as engineering firms, surveyors or area Cities or Counties that may not currently be a member of TFMA. Attend the conferences if possible. They provide educational opportunity through various training seminars and workshops valuable to your profession. Additionally, exchanging experiences with your professional peers and getting to know one another is interesting and *FUN!*

I look forward to visiting with each of you at the Spring and Fall conferences. TFMA has a bright future and an exciting year ahead. With much anticipated growth, we have an opportunity to build an even stronger partnership between TFMA, FEMA, NFIP and communities across Texas.

This is the time of year to count your blessings and cherish all we hold dear in life. I wish each of you, and your families, a safe, healthy, and blessed holiday season.

TFMA Website Questions

Q: I want to register a colleague for a TFMA conference. Why can't I just register them without their sign-in information?

A: In order for a TFMA member to get the discounted registration rate, they must be sign into their profiles to get the discount AND to link their payment to their invoice. If you are not signed in, you may get charged more for your registration and your payment will not be linked to your member profile. So please always sign into your profile to get the credit you deserve.

Q: I need a receipt for a TFMA event I registered and paid for online on the website. How do I get a receipt?

A: Simply sign in to your profile. Under "My Profile" click on "Manage Profile" and in the center you'll see "Invoicing, Payment and History." Just click on "Invoices > "Filter by Status" (*located at the top*) > Hover over "Any Status" > and click on the invoice you want.

GOT A QUESTION? Email us your questions and we'll email you solutions plus we'll post them on the newsletter to share with the membership. Chances are, they have the same questions too. Email us: tfma1@att.net.

Around the State

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT DESERVES KUDOS

Back in January, heavy rain fell across parts of Travis County sending numerous streams out of banks and flooding many low water crossings. Numerous roads and low water crossings were barricaded by local public safety officials to prevent motorists from driving into harm's way and entering floodwaters. But then, something that happens way too often in Texas shifted the scene into a high drama, life and death rescue. A 39-year old woman, made a disastrous decision and an illegal one at that. She drove around a barricade and tried to cross a flooded low water bridge. Her SUV was quickly washed off the road and into raging floodwaters. The woman abandoned her sinking vehicle and clung to a tree until she was rescued. Her bad driving decision not only put her life in harm's way but also the lives of those who now had to respond and rescue her. Thankfully, she was rescued and all involved were also safe. But what about the cost to taxpayers these types of rescues incur? One driver, making one bad decision can cost local communities thousands of dollars in emergency funds. As I stated, this action is now illegal, thanks to Texas' Barricade law. To review the law, click on this link: <http://texasflashflood.org/laws/>

This law has been around for several years but has yet to catch on with local law enforcement in many areas. That has changed in Travis County with news that this driver is now being charged for driving around a barricade and entering floodwater. Kudos to Travis County Sheriff's Department for following through with this action. Maybe news of this action will make more drivers stop and think before placing their life and others in danger, Turn Around Don't Drown would have prevented this situation. Now maybe it is also time to start billing these bad drivers for their rescue. How much do you think a StarFlight helicopter rescue costs taxpayers?

If your community has taken actions in the past to enforce the Barricade Law, we would like to hear from you. Just send us an email with details to tfmal@att.net.



Stevens Park Golf Course



Engineering | Architecture
Environmental Science | Planning
Program Management | Energy
Construction Services

www.freese.com

TexAnna Taddpole Scores Big On Super Bowl Sunday!



For the fourth straight year, TFMA has manned a flood safety booth at what has become an annual public safety, educational, weather awareness and most of all a fun time for kids and adults. Austin's WeatherFest, the brain child of My News Now/Time Warner Cable has continued to grow each year and now reaches over 1,000+ eager fans. The event hosted at Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum is Free to the public and offers a wide variety of educational experiences. Exhibitors

range from Girlstart, Austin Fire Department, U.S. Geological Survey, Austin Astronomical Society, Lower Colorado River Authority, City of Austin Watershed Department (atxfloods), CoCoRaHS, NOAA/National Weather Service, local AMS/NWA Chapter and of course, TFMA. Also on hand are several of Austin's TV Network Weather providers, including Time Warner Cable, KEYE and KXAN.

Speaking of KXAN, Chief Meteorologist Jim Spencer brought in his special weather dog, KXANN to meet and mix with the kids. He was a great hit. TFMA was also a very popular booth with our TexAnna display and bountiful Candy Bowl. TFMA provided over 700 kids with colorful TexAnna bags filled with a TADD Calendar, TexAnna Coloring Book, TADD Bumper Sticker, TADD stickers and tattoos, and a pencil. What was very encouraging was that most of the parents did take time to explain what our flood safety message – Turn Around Don't Drown – was all about and how people should not drive into flood water. Hopefully both kids and adults learned something on this special day. To see more of TFMA's Public Awareness and Outreach Program, visit our website at: <http://www.tfma.org/?page=Outreach>



Another very popular event is the City of Austin's Watershed Department display. They too, feature the Turn Around Don't Drown flood safety message, promote the very effective atxfloods, and staff demonstrate the Stormwater Model. Using the model to demonstrate effects of flooding on a watershed as development and conditions change clearly drives home the impact of development on flooding. Kids delight when model cars are washed off of flooded roads and homes are washed under as floodwater runs out of banks. A fun, but very wet learning experience. TFMA now owns three of these Stormwater Models and we do loan them out for special outreach events. To learn more about these effective teaching tools, visit the following website: https://www.wardsci.com/store/catalog/product.jsp?catalog_number=805770 To borrow a model from TFMA, just contact the TFMA Executive Office.



TFMA is grateful to Time Warner Cable for putting this annual event together and for inviting TFMA to participate. If the creeks don't rise, we plan on being back next year to do it all over again. We didn't see too many TFMA members and families at the event this time. Maybe next year, you too can score big with your kids and have some fun in the process. To learn more about flood safety, check out these two websites: <http://www.atxfloods.com/#> and <http://www.srh.weather.gov/tadd/>.

Congratulations to our newest CFMs

Morgan Ayers – Bandera County River Authority
Stephen Belknap – Denton County
Kyle Burrow – City of Kerrville
James Corn – City of Oak Ridge North
David Dimaline – City of Leon Valley
Patrick Donart – City of Friendswood
Misty Downing – San Antonio River Authority
Lyndon Duano – City of San Antonio
Brian Edmondson – Harris Cty. Flood Control District
Ashley Freidberg – City of New Braunfels
Daniel Gray – City of Dallas
Richard Hensley – City of Coleman
Thomas Hodges – City of Big Spring
Ramin Howiatdost – City of San Antonio
Mike Ingalsbe – City of Marble Falls
Cynthia Jackson – City of Arlington
Lee Jeffrey – City of Arlington
Sandra Johnson – City of Kennedale
Roxanne Johnston – City of Big Spring
Tawnya Lane – City of Dallas
Jose Lopez – City of Dallas
LeeAnne Lutz – San Antonio River Authority
Adam Marsh – City of Colleyville
Frank Mason – City of Fort Worth
David Mauk – Bandera County River Authority & Groundwater District
Nick Milanovich – City of New Berlin
Jose Diego Monroy – JDM Consulting
Molly Mulloy – City of Sunset Valley
David Phan – City of Dallas
Jacob Powell – City of San Antonio

Ahangama Nanayakkara - RS&H, Inc.
Michael Redman – Bandera County River Authority
Roberto Reyna – City of San Antonio
Andrew Reynolds – Klein & Cope Engineering, Inc.
Melissa Reynolds – City of New Braunfels
Rex Robertson – City of Belton
Valerie Rocha - CoreLogic
Brian Rouane – City of Friendswood
Sarah Schlessinger – Bandera County River Authority
Aarin Teague – San Antonio River Authority
Gloria Teague – INTERA, Inc.
Rex Tunze – Chambers County
Stacy Rodgers – City of San Antonio
Matthew Williamson – City of Fort Worth
Richard Wilson – City of Temple
Stanley Young – Navarro County

**TFMA Certified 209 CFMs in 2014.
Great Job EVERYONE!**



TFMA and Weatherfest

Kevin Shunk, CFM with the City of Austin shows youngsters the dangers of flooding by utilizing the Stormwater Model - a valuable learning tool.

Call the TFMA office for more information on all our outreach programs including the use of our stormwater models for your events.

512-260-1366 or via email at tfma1@att.net.

TFMA Legislative Update



At the State Capitol

By: Wes Birdwell, P.E.

TFMA Legislative Committee Chair

It is 2015, and being an odd year, the legislature is back in Austin. But first, a little history. As you remember, TFMA supported SB1436 in 2007 which directed \$3.05 Million per year from the state tax on flood insurance policies sold in Texas to support the TWDB NFIP. Then, in 2009 Texas' economy was in a recession and this funding was taken away from TWDB and put into the state's general fund. During that session, this happened with numerous dedicated funds in the state budget. As a result, TWDB had to lay off the new NFIP staff they had just hired and strategically placed around the state.

For numerous reasons, TWDB was reorganized by the Legislature in 2013 with three full-time board members appointed by the Governor. Directors Carlos Rubenstien, Bech Bruun and Kathleen Jackson are current Board members that oversee the new TWDB. Mr. Bruun previously served as the government and customer relations manager for the Brazos River Authority. A native of Corpus Christi, he is a member of the Texas Environmental Flows Advisory Group. Because of his background Director Bruun understands Texas flooding issues. He lived through the Halloween Flood on Onion Creek in southeast Travis County in 2013 and has many stories to tell about that severe flood and its aftermath.

Director Bruun is very interested in building the state's NFIP to provide assistance to local communities and is aware of the program's funding situation. The Legislature has an opportunity to fix the funding stream and re-direct the \$3.05 Million per year back to TWDB for the state NFIP. We have been working with members of the Legislature and the TWDB to move this forward. There is a great deal of interest which is very encouraging. We will keep you posted on this progress.

Bills which have been filed in this Legislature and bear watching: **SB360** by Senator Craig Estes of Wichita Falls seems to tie property rights to floodplains. Enforcement of the NFIP in designated floodplains is currently exempted from being considered a "taking" of private property rights by state law. This bill seems to remove that exemption and should be watched carefully. Many thanks to Jameson Courtney, City of Austin, for spotting this bill!

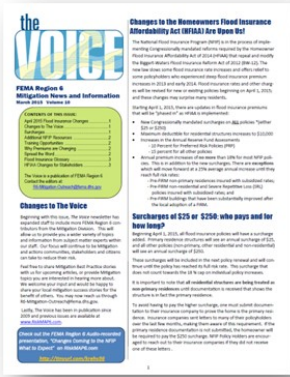
Other bills: *The Mike Howard Floodplain Management Training Bill* – John Ivey has been working with Representative Dwayne Bohac, Houston, to file a bill requiring floodplain training for public officials. This would be a good bill, and one TFMA should support. However, it has not yet been filed. Keep up the good work, John.

Have you heard of another bill that might affect floodplain management in Texas? Please email me: wesbirdwell@gmail.com and I'll check it out!

The Legislative Committee would like to have a joint meeting with the new Mapping Committee on Thursday just before or just after lunch. Many of you have expressed interest in one of these committees, so please plan to attend! We would very much appreciate getting your ideas. There will be more information at the TFMA Registration Desk, so ask when you arrive!

The Voice – Increasing Awareness, Encouraging Mitigation Action

FEMA Region 6 has just released the latest issue of our newsletter, *The Voice*, and it is available on our website at http://www.riskmap6.com/documents/resource/TheVoice_Mar2015_Vol10508.pdf. You can sign up on RiskMAP6.com to receive future issues of *The Voice* newsletter upon publication release.



The March 2015 issue includes articles, information, and links related to the April 2015 Changes to the NFIP. Articles on the changes, surcharges, additional training for agents, and links to current resources and our latest audio-recorded presentation on the HFIAA are included.

Beginning with this issue, *The Voice* newsletter has expanded staff to include more FEMA Region 6 contributors from the Mitigation Division. This will allow us to provide you a wider variety of topics and information from subject matter experts within our staff. Our focus will continue to be mitigation and actions communities, stakeholders and citizens can take to reduce their risk.

We encourage our readers to share local Mitigation Success stories with us for future issues of *The Voice*. You may now reach us through R6-Mitigation-Outreach@fema.dhs.gov.

Local officials looking for ways to easily and effectively share and communicate flood risk information with their community are encouraged to browse through the *Risk Communications Guidebook for Local Official*, available online at <http://www.riskmap6.com/guidebook.aspx>.

The Voice has been in publication since 2009 and previous issues are available at www.RiskMAP6.com.

[RiskMAP6.com](http://www.RiskMAP6.com) “Helping communities understand a complete picture of their natural hazard risk”

PROVIDING
WATER RESOURCE
SOLUTIONS

WALTER P MOORE

HYDROLOGY & HYDRAULICS FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
STORM WATER MANAGEMENT DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
DAM SAFETY GIS MAPPING

800.364.7300
www.WALTERPMOORE.COM

3411 Magic Drive, San Antonio, TX 78229
210.581.1111 | www.cdsmuery.com

CDS muery
ENGINEERS • SURVEYORS

RPS 512-326-5659 | www.rpsgroup.com

Providing sustainable solutions in the built & natural environment

Water Resources
Environmental Science
Municipal Infrastructure
Planning & Development

Austin | Beaumont | Corpus Christi | Dallas | Ft. Worth | Houston

TFMA 9TH Annual North Texas Regional Luncheon Event Another Great Success

On February 19th, TFMA members from Region 4 (Fort Worth) and Region 10 (Dallas) came together at the Grapevine Convention Center for the 9th Annual North Texas Luncheon Event. This year's event was by far the largest with over 275 coming together for a meal, social networking and training. The event included key presentations by the following:

"The Future Direction of Flood Hazard Mapping in the US – The Role of TFMA and TMAC to Help FEMA Make a More Resilient Nation" by: Scott Edelman, P.E

"An Overview of FEMA's Public Survey on Flood Risk Awareness" by: Diane Howe, CFM

"Update on HFIAA - April 1, 2015 Flood Insurance Changes" by: Mark Lujan, CFM, ANFI

The after lunch Technical Sessions included:

"NCTCOG Vision For Regional Floodplain Management" by: Edith Marvin, P.E., CFM

"Technical Support For Flood Risk" by: Jerry L. Cotter, P.E.

"A Cowboy Looks at FEMA Through TxDOT Eyes" by: James Mercer, P.E., CFM



The Lunch program provided an opportunity for CFM's to earn 1 CEC towards annual recertification. The afternoon Technical Session following the lunch provided an additional 1.5 CECs for those who chose to stay for more training. Special Thanks to our keynote speakers and technical session presenters. Great Job! TFMA has posted the presentations on the website at www.tfma.org or by [clicking here](#).

This event and luncheon would not be possible without the support of the following sponsors:

AECOM, Brown & Gay Engineers, Dewberry, Fort Worth Stormwater Management, Freese & Nichols, J. S. Ground Engineering, Half Associates, Hayden Consultants, HDR, Huitt-Zollars, Jacobs, JD Engineering, McLendon Hydrology and Engineering, LLC, Nathan D. Maier Consulting Engineers, Pacheco Koch, Pape-Dawson Engineers, Peloton Land Solutions, RPS, Teague Nall & Perkins, and Winkelmann & Associates, Inc.



ASFPM APPROVES NEW CFM STAMP

After months of discussion and lots of hard work on the part of ASFPM's Professional Development Committee, ASFPM's Certified Board of Regents (CBOR) approved a new CFM stamp that is intended to replace the previously approved signature block. TFMA's own John Ivey was instrumental in making this happen and setting up a vendor in Texas for the CFM stamp. The TFMA Board of Directors officially approved the use of the CFM stamp in Texas. Any CFM in good standing may order a stamp through the TFMA website. Go to: [www.tfma.org](#) and place your order.

There are two types of stamps available, one is a standard stamp which requires a separate ink pad and the other is a self-inking stamp. The price for the standard stamp is \$15.00, and the price for the self-inking stamp is \$20.00. A \$5.00 shipping/ handling charge will be added to the cost of the stamp.

The CFM stamp will look like the following image:



Seal size 1.5" X 1.5" Your Name Unique CFM Number Year Certified N = National Certification

ASFPM and CBOR have developed usage guidelines which must be followed by local CFMs when using the stamp.

CFM® Stamp Usage Guidelines

I. CFM Stamps must meet the stamp specifications (design, size and content) approved by the Certification Board of Regents (CBOR). This stamp will show the certification holder's name, certification number, and the title "Certified Floodplain Manager" with space for signature.

- II.** The CFM stamp shall only be used in the following situations:
- a. to document a floodplain action within an individual area of expertise such as the issuance or denial of a floodplain development permit;
 - b. a FEMA Elevation Certification Section G;
 - c. correspondence, plans, or reports that document a floodplain management action.

The certification holder's stamp signature and certification number may be placed on the document provided the CFM prepared or directed and controlled the preparation of the written materials.

III. The CFM stamp may not be used in any unprofessional, derogatory, or frivolous manner which discredits the individual, ASFPM, or an Accredited State.

IV. No person may use or place a stamp on a document if the certification of the CFM has expired, been suspended, or has been revoked.

V. The affixing or imprinting of the CFM stamp on a document shall not infer or imply that ASFPM or the Accredited State approved or endorses the floodplain management action. ASFPM and the Accredited State shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, special or other damages resulting from any stamped floodplain management action.

Be the first in your Region to have and use your CFM stamp. Order yours today. Visit the TFMA website at www.tfma.org or [click here](#) to access the order form.



The 27th Annual TFMA Spring Conference on April 14-17, 2015 in Dallas is fast approaching. Have you registered yet?

The Early Bird Registration deadline is **March 27**. After that date, registration fees go up.

Highlights of the conference include:

- The 2nd annual J. Mike Howard Lectureship presented by David R. Maidment, Ph.D. He will present “*Floodplain Mapping and Flood Forecasting Technology - Into the Future.*”
- Opportunity to choose from over 20 hours of CECs.
- The Welcoming Banquet “Casino Royale” with a full dinner buffet and chances to try their skills at Texas Hold ‘Em, Blackjack, roulette and more. A great way to start the conference!
- The Awards and Membership Luncheon.
- The grand finale - the Closing Reception and Silent Auction.
- The exhibit hall which provides you opportunities to visit with companies that have the services and products you need.
- The Closing Plenary Session with a panel full of industry experts with FEMA, TWDB and others waiting to address your questions and concerns.
- Networking opportunities in the great city of Dallas.
- CFM Exam opportunity

TFMA Headquarters Hotel

The headquarters hotel is The Westin Park Central deep in the heart of Dallas. TFMA has negotiated a fantastic rate of \$125 single/double. To make your hotel reservations, call The Westin Park Central at 972-385-3000 and tell reservations your are with the TFMA Annual Spring Conference in order to get this special rate. You can also make your reservation online by [click here](#) or you can copy and paste the following URL on your browser:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1409255451&key=185C5C>

Cutoff date for reservations is March 31 or once the block is full, whichever comes first.

Contribute to the 3rd Annual Silent Auction

Calling all the TFMA talented members who would like to contribute their wonderful works of art to the auction!

Please contact the TFMA office at 512-260-1366 and let us know what you’ll be contributing. Last year, a few of you donated great items that were quickly snatched up, so start that project today!



F.A.S.T

Floodplain Awareness Success in Texas

FAST Forward

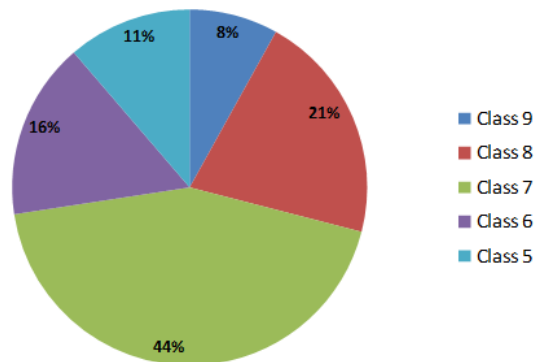
February 2015 marks the five year anniversary of the state’s first Community Rating System (CRS) users group – *Floodplain Awareness Success in Texas* (FAST). The purpose of a CRS users group is to bring communities together to share best practices and success stories, stay current on the changes in the CRS, learn about available resources to help improve CRS programs, and network with their neighbors. The benefits are plentiful: being in a users group empowers communities to value collaboration, brings clarification to program requirements, creates a forum for interactive discussion, and helps communities work together to achieve common goals in a cohesive approach. Best of all, a CRS users group is like a support group – gathering like-minded people together for the common good.

FAST began in 2010, at the tail end of the field-deployed EMI CRS class held at the City of Pasadena. ISO instructor French Wetmore brought up the subject of users groups, a paper to “sign if you’re interested” went around the room, and two months later, we had our scoping meeting at the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) in Houston. Twenty people attended that first meeting, 13 of them from communities. The group made all the decisions on how FAST was going to function, namely that it would be a private group (no public citizens) meeting at H-GAC on the first Thursday of every month from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Meetings would focus on specific CRS activities or other floodplain management related topics, followed by group discussion. A few months after the scoping meeting, FAST joined forces with H-GAC and we were able to secure a call-in line. This broadened the FAST audience, as people who could not attend meetings in person could call in to the meetings, follow along with the presentations on the website, and contribute to the discussion over the phone. Since the meetings take place at H-GAC, FAST is also able to piggyback on the meetings of the Regional Flood Management Council (RFMC). Every quarter, FAST and RFMC have a joint meeting on the third Wednesday of that month. This works out well since many of the community representatives in the area belong to both RFMA and FAST. Another bonus for FAST? Attendance at meetings earns up to two continuing education credits (CECs) towards your CFM for TFMA.

Fast forward five years and operating the same way and we’re getting great results. Over the years, we’ve had a wide variety of speakers and presentations from such organizations as FEMA Region 6, ISO, FloodSmart, National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, UNO-CHART in

Louisiana, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Natural Information Resource System, TFMA, Texas A&M University (whoop!) in Galveston, Rice University, Harris County Flood Control District, private consultants, and CRS participating communities. Though the group is based in the Houston-Galveston area, communities from all over the state have gotten involved in FAST, either attending the meetings in person or via conference call.

In the past five years since FAST has been in existence, the number of CRS communities in Texas has increased from 47 to 62, with numerous communities making class improvements during that time. Involvement in FAST has proven to be a contributing factor to the successes of many of its participating communities. FAST also gets to boast that one of its very proactive and progressive communities – the City of Pasadena – is the nation’s model for the Program for Public Information (CRS activity 330). Since its inception, FAST has helped communities come in to the CRS, improve their documentation, and advance their ratings. The graphic below demonstrates where the 62 communities fall with regards to CRS class.



Currently, there are 39 CRS users groups in the country, but only one in the great state of Texas. If you would like to get more involved in FAST, please drop me a line at:

debbie.vascik@yahoo.com and check out the FAST website at www.h-gac.com/go/fast (“go fast” - nice, huh?). And if you’re someone like me who wants to help your fellow CRS communities by starting up a CRS users group in your area, I’d be glad to help get you set up and moving. I leave you with two words:

Think FAST!

Call For Abstracts

The Texas Floodplain Management Association is pleased to announce its Call for Abstracts for the 2015 Fall Technical Summit. The summit will be held at the Hyatt Regency Houston (1200 Louisiana Street) starting on September 1 and ending on September 4, 2015. Topics include floodplain management, permitting, hydrology & hydraulics, mapping, mitigation, storm water management, etc.

ABSTRACTS

Abstracts should be limited to one page (*Word format*) and include the presentation name, description, name(s) of presenter(s), and indicate how much time you will need (30 minutes, 1 hour, longer). Times allocated for plenary and current session presentations typically range from 30 minutes to 1 hour. Times allocated for workshops range from 4 hours (1/2 day) to 8 hours (full day). For abstracts that have more than one author, indicate the name(s) of who will be making the presentation and attending the conference.

ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL DEADLINES

Workshops - The deadline to submit abstracts to be considered for a workshop is [April 24, 2015](#).

Plenary and Concurrent Sessions - The deadline to submit abstracts to be considered for plenary or concurrent session presentations is [May 22, 2015](#). Notification of the acceptance of your presentation will be sent by email on or before May 29, 2015.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR ABSTRACT

John A. Espinoza, PE, CFM
TFMA Conference Committee Chair **or**
tfmaconference@gmail.com
Phone: (210) 347-5330

Tim Raines, PE, CFM
U.S. Geological Survey
thraines@usgs.gov
(817) 263-9545, ext 201



Ideas transform
communities

This is where great begins.



Houston 713.622.9264

hdrinc.com



LJA Engineering, Inc.

Consulting Engineers • Planners • Surveyors



Floodplain Management

- Stream Studies
- Flood Reduction Plans
- Master Drainage Plans
- GIS Drainage Applications
- Water Quality Modeling
- Stormwater Master Plans
- FEMA Submittals

Infrastructure Planning & Construction Phase Services

- Channel Design
- Storm Sewer Design
- NPDES Permits
- Edwards Aquifer Permits
- Roadway Drainage Studies

For more information on our flood protection services, please contact Dr. John Grounds at 713.953.5221

LJA is a full-service consulting engineering firm with offices in Houston, Austin, Galveston, Beaumont, San Antonio, Deer Park, Cedar Park, Katy, Spring and The Woodlands.

www.ljaengineering.com

713.953.5200

Upcoming TFMA Training Schedule

TFMA has already started to plan Training for 2015. It is going to be an exciting, aggressive training schedule so no CFM is left behind! Here are a few of the courses already planned:

Dallas – April 14-17 – Spring Conference

Houston – June, 2015 – E-273 (CLASS IS FULL)

Amarillo – July 20 – 24, 2015 – E-273

Houston – September 1-4 – Fall Technical Summit

Arlington – December, 2015 – E-273

Each training listed above will provide an opportunity to take the CFM exam. Keep an eye on the website for other training in the future.

Webinar: *FFRMS Federal Flood Risk Management Standard*

March 25, 2015, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (ET)

The link to register is: <https://events-na11.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1087126544/en/events/catalog.html>

Want to host a class in your Region? Contact the TFMA office and we'll get you started!

AECOM

Creating
a better
tomorrow.

Creating, enhancing
and sustaining
the world's built,
natural and social
environments.

www.aecom.com

TFMA's Fall Technical Summit

September 1– 4, 2015

Hyatt Regency * Houston

More information and registration is coming on June 1st.

Don't forget to visit the TFMA Career Center at www.tfma.org.

You will be required to sign into your profile in order to access the career center. A valuable tool for Members Only!

Many Thanks to our Advertisers

TFMA thanks all the companies for advertising in
The Lightning Rod.

Look for them throughout this issue and click on their ad to find out more about their services.

SOMETHING MISSING?

Don't see your company name? Then your company is not taking advantage of reaching over 2,000 members! Don't miss out on 2015. Advertise in future issues of TFMA's *The Lightning Rod*. Call the TFMA Executive Office today at 512-260-1366 or visit the TFMA website at <http://www.tfma.org/?page=Newsletter>

P.O. Box 1237

Cedar Park, Texas 78630

Ph: 512-260-1366/Fax: 512-260-1409

Email: TFMA1@att.net



Are You Connected?



Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TFMA>



Follow us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/TexasCFM>

TFMA 2013-2015 Leadership Team

Executive Board Members

President

Diane Calhoun, CFM

Calhoun Consulting, LLC

Phone: 940-600-8646

E-mail: dcalhouncfm@gmail.com

Vice-President

Jessica Baker, P.E., CFM, PMP

Halff Associates, Inc.

Phone: 214-217-6692

E-mail: JBaker@halff.com

Secretary

Paloma Garcia, CFM

Teracore, FEMA Region VI

Denton, TX

Phone: 940-783-5098

E-mail: Paloma.a.garcia@gmail.com

Treasurer

Thomas Mountz, P.E., CFM

Phone: 512-786-9564

E-mail: tmountz@gmail.com

Past President

John S. Grounds, III, PhD, P.E., CFM

LJA Engineering Inc.

Phone: 713-953-5221

E-mail: jgrounds@ljaengineering.com

Executive Director

Roy D. Sedwick, CFM

Email: rdsedwick@austin.rr.com

Ph: 512-260-1366 or 512-496-0692

Regional Directors

Region 1

Steven Nelson, P.E., CFM

City of Lubbock

E-mail: steven.knelson@gmail.com

Region 2

Jodie Kelly, CFM

City of Brownwood

E-mail: jkelly@ci.brownwood.tx.us

Region 3

Sandra Hernandez, P.E., CFM

Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., El Paso

E-mail: smhernandez@team-psc.com

Region 4

Lynn Lovell, P.E., CFM

Halff Associates, Inc., Fort Worth

E-mail: LLovell@halff.com

Region 5

Erin Waldo, CFM

CoreLogic Flood Services, Austin

E-mail: ewaldo@corelogic.com

Region 6

Joe G. Fernandez, CFM

San Antonio River Authority

E-mail: josef@sara-tx.org

Region 7

Michael Wilson, P.E., CFM

City of Tyler

Email: mwilson@tylertexas.com

Region 8

John A. Johnston, P.E., CFM

City of Victoria

E-mail: jjohnston@victoriatx.org

Region 9

Cheryl E. Flores, CFM

Harlingen, Texas

E-mail: florescheryl@hotmail.com

Region 10

Tam Vu, CFM

City of Dallas

E-mail: tam.vu@dallascityhall.com

TFMA Committee Chairs

Lane Lease, P.E., CFM (Membership)

lane@rodssue.cc

Amy Ronnfeldt, P.E., CFM (Certification)

Amy.Ronnfeldt@TxDOT.gov

John Espinoza, P.E., CFM (Conference, Co-Chair)

espinozaja79@gmail.com

Tim Raines, P.E., CFM (Conference, Co-Chair)

thraines@usgs.gov

Garry Fennell, P.E., CFM (Finance)

gfennell@cityofirving.org

Robert Barker, P.E, CFM (Member Services)

slrigdad@yahoo.com

Cathy Meek, CFM (Outreach)

cathy@h2opartnersusa.com

John Ivey, P.E., CFM (Mentor Program)

jivey@halff.com

Ray Windsor, CFM (Training, Co-Chair)

raydwindsor@gmail.com

J. Leon Curtis, P.E., CFM (Training, Co-Chair)

curtis1@tx.rr.com

Steve Gonzales, P.E., CFM (Communications)

sgonzales@vickreyinc.com

Steve Eubanks, P.E., CFM (Stormwater, Co-Chair)

steven.eubanks@fortworthtexas.gov

Jill Trevino, P.E., CFM (Stormwater, Co-Chair)

jwt@freese.com

Janine Ellington, CFM (CRS, Co-Chair)

cldimples41@yahoo.com

Debbie Vascik, CFM (CRS, Co-Chair)

debbie.vascik@yahoo.com

Wes Birdwell, P.E. (FP Mapping Standards)

wbirdwell@halff.com