As we approach the one year anniversary of the 2015 Memorial Day Floods, as floodplain managers we tend to reflect back on those trying days when so many Texans suffered life altering experiences during these historic floods. With so many folks suffering the loss of their homes and possessions and the most devastating, the loss of precious life, many were affected and too many were lost. The memories of this disastrous day will forever be seared in the minds and hearts of everyone. Never to be forgotten.

If you are like me, this reflection tends to motivate me. It makes me increasingly dedicated and passionate to find solutions to mitigate the losses and risks from flash flooding in Texas. A lot of soul searching, after the fact finger pointing, and local community after action disaster reports has occurred along with a simple question from the victims

— Why me Lord?

I can’t answer this question as these are some things we just can’t control - floods are part of nature. Some flooding may be compounded by our actions, but most just natural happenings. That’s just the way our world turns, rains come, flooding occurs and then our refreshed world begins anew. Only when man places himself in harm’s way by building in floodplains do these floods become disasters for mankind.

In the early days of the Texas settlement, it was common for towns to be built alongside our rivers and streams to meet the demands of a growing community – water supply, commerce, transportation and recreation. But those past decisions have led to severe consequences as those communities have grown and developed, spreading out across the landscape. Subdivision after subdivision, miles and miles of concrete and impervious cover, misguided building site selection and poor planning have led to increases in flood risks to our communities and our population.

So what do we do? Do we just throw up our hands and declare this is just the reality of life in today’s world? We could, but I am betting most of you will say “No”. There are solutions and mitigation actions that can and will help mitigate future flood losses. We can’t stop the flood cycle but we can stop the “Flood/Rebuild/Flood/Rebuild” cycle. But together we can find solutions.

Since the Memorial Day floods, TFMA and Texas Flash Flood Coalition (TFFC) have made strides to zero in on the flood events of 2015. Looking for solutions and spreading the word that we can do some-thing about our flood risks. In 2015 TFFC hosted a Regional Flood Symposium in Conroe, TX and their Annual Meeting in Seguin, TX. These focused on the Memorial Day and Halloween floods. New innovative ideas and suggestions came from these meetings and later this year, TFMA and TFFC will share these findings with you.

TFMA utilized the 2016 Spring Conference in Houston to focus on the 2015 floods. Numerous presentations on flooding events and ensuing mitigation actions were shared with over 500 eager participants. One of the most inspiring presentations was given by Don Ferguson, City Administrator for the City of Wimberley, TX. His “Wimberley Strong” presentation brought back vivid memories of the horrors of that fateful flood and yet was a motivating and inspiring story of how a small community can rise above this disaster and pull itself up by its bootstraps and move forward with restoring their community. Making life better and safer for all.

If there is one lesson learned from the floods of 2015, is “Working Together, We Can Make a Difference.” TFMA is committed in working together to make this difference. Will you join us?

Roy D. Sedwick, CFM
TFMA Executive Director

Click here for an article in Texas Monthly on the 2015 Memorial Day floods in Wimberley where three TFMA members including Roy were mentioned.
Your President’s Message

I want to thank everyone who attended our TFMA 2016 Annual Spring Conference which was held in the great city of Houston, TX on March 8 – 11, 2016. We had another record attendance of 556 attendees! What a great showing that demonstrates the passion our membership has for strong and sound floodplain management in Texas! Our conference had great support from our 17 sponsors and 26 exhibitors, thank you. TFMA would also like to extend our sincere thank you to all of the plenary and concurrent session presenters. All of the presentations are available and now posted on the TFMA website: http://www.tfma.org/?page=SpringPresentations.

We also had the privilege of honoring ten award winners at our annual awards luncheon. A full listing of the awardees and pictures can be found on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter. Additional photos taken during the conference are now posted on TFMA’s Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.898451096920939.1073741865.259993177433404&type=1&l=a01d9ec196.

Also at our annual awards luncheon we unveiled a new TFMA initiative, “Texas FloodED – Grassroots Education Effort to Introduce TFMA to our State Elected Officials.” The goal of this effort is to introduce TFMA as the leading professional association in floodplain management in the state of Texas. For more information and how you can volunteer for this initiative please go to page 6 in this newsletter. We need your help to make this effort a success. Please email the TFMA office at tfma@tfma.org and reference ‘FloodED Volunteer’ if you’d like to participate or if you have any questions. Sign up ASAP because training will take place soon and all meetings will be conducted by July 2016!

TFMA encourages you to continue to take advantage of our TFMA training and networking events scheduled for 2016. Regional seminars and lunches are scheduled in the DFW area (May 17 in Grapevine) and in San Antonio (June 2). Continue to check out new training courses and events being added to our TFMA calendar online: http://www.tfma.org/events/event_list.asp.

Finally, we want to remind all of our members of the importance of flood safety and educating our citizens. Texas continues experiencing devastating flood events with the recent flooding along the Sabine River in Southeast Texas and in the Houston area. Our members are doing great things with social media keeping the public informed and educated on flood risks in real time. Check out some recent examples on page 7. You can also follow TFMA’s Twitter account ‘@TexasCFM’ as we try to keep up with the current flooding.

I encourage all our members if you have ideas or questions don’t hesitate, reach out to us at tfma@tfma.org. TFMA continues growth and success because of all of our members LIKE YOU!

Jessica D. Baker, PE, CFM, PMP
TFMA 2015 - 2017 President
Best Practices in the Community

City of Leon Valley, Texas, Unveiled High Water Mark and Announce an Initiative Targeting Local Flood Risk

In October of 1998, the City of Leon Valley was devastated by flooding. On January 9, 2016, officials unveiled a High Water Mark in that city. They also announced the start of a new initiative reminding residents of the community’s flood risks.

The High Water Mark Initiative places a permanent High Water Mark on the Raymond Rinkus Park Walking Path. It encourages local residents and businesses to learn about their flood risks. They are also encouraged to make emergency plans and put together disaster supply kits. The initiative was based on tools and strategies developed by FEMA and eight other Federal agencies.

Floods are the most common and costly natural disaster in the United States. Someone with a 30-year mortgage has a 26 percent chance of flooding. That’s more than twice the chance of a fire.

Visit www.leonvalleytexas.gov or call 210-684-1391 to learn more about this initiative and use the “Cost of Flooding” tool at https://www.FloodSmart.gov to see how much damage flooding can do to your home inch by inch.

Goliad County Participates in “Turn Around Don’t Drown” Campaign

Goliad City/County has embarked on the plan of marking all of their low water crossings with TADD signs. Their first sign on Franke Rd at Perdido Creek was installed last month.

In addition, Christy Bear, CFM, Goliad Emergency Management Coordinator completed an article for their local newspaper about flood preparedness in March. Christy is a one woman department that covers emergency management for the city and county, along with flood plain administration. Watch for her “Staying High and Dry Through Preparedness” article in the Summer Newsletter coming in July!

GOOD JOB Christy!

The Voice is also being distributed in an HTML email delivery system in order to improve the experience for our subscribers. Now you can easily share specific content and stories on your own media channels.

You can sign up on RiskMAP6.com to receive future issues of *The Voice* upon publication release, and as always, access to past issues of *The Voice* are available on our website, [www.riskmap6.com](http://www.riskmap6.com). We hope you’ll appreciate the new format and share with others.

The March 2016 issue features information on how your community can participate in the High Water Mark Initiative (HWMI), a community-based awareness program that increases local awareness of flood risk and encourages actions to mitigate that risk. Last quarter we featured a story on the City of Leon Valley, Texas, and the steps they’ve taken to become our first HWMI community. Since then, we’ve developed a flyer explaining more about the program and how to get involved.

Also in this issue of *The Voice*, we’ve focused on preparing for Spring flooding. Whether you’re a homeowner, agent, or local official, we encourage you to share information on understanding your local risk and the steps to take to reduce that risk. We’ve featured several FloodSmart tools you may want to check out.

Remember to sign up to participate in FEMA Region 6 “Virtual Brown Bag” Webinars, our online training demonstration series to help communities create useful GIS products with the flood risk products delivered during a Risk MAP study here: [https://r6virtualbrownbag.eventbrite.com](https://r6virtualbrownbag.eventbrite.com)

**RiskMAP6.com**

“Helping communities understand a complete picture of their natural hazard risk”

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**New Aids from ASFPM**

Two new guides from the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) can be helpful to CRS communities working on Activity 510 (Floodplain Management Planning) and Activity 330 (Outreach Projects), as well as other planning and public information work.

The No Adverse Impact (NAI) How-To-Guide for Planning introduces the concept of managing floodprone areas so that activity on one property has no negative effect on others. Given this background, it goes on to describe and give case study examples for planning tools such as hazard mitigation planning, comprehensive planning, post-disaster planning, risk assessment, and public involvement. Throughout it incorporates the CRS planning steps into the processes described and notes when and how CRS credit points figure into the NAI approach. Some of the case studies focus on CRS communities. Download it at [http://www.floods.org/NoAdverseImpact/NAIPlanning_How_to_Guide_Final.pdf](http://www.floods.org/NoAdverseImpact/NAIPlanning_How_to_Guide_Final.pdf). You can also [click here](http://www.floods.org/NoAdverseImpact/NAIPlanning_How_to_Guide_Final.pdf) to download.

The Texas Colorado River Floodplain Coalition (TCRFC) is proud to be a part of the TFMA family. TFMA’s infamous Executive Director, Roy Sedwick, was one of the original planners and organizers of the Coalition. Roy, Wes Birdwell, and other Lower Colorado River Authority dignitaries worked with county and city officials within the Texas Colorado River Basin and surrounding areas to establish a strong coalition of members.

At the time the Coalition was formed, I was a county commissioner and joined the team. Since its inception in 2000, TCRFC has accomplished several improvements for our members. We have coordinated with the US Army Corps of Engineers in the Lower Colorado Basin Study to implement cost-effective flood damage reduction strategies which provide recreational and environmental benefits; worked with FEMA towards updated Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps for member communities; secured millions of dollars in federal appropriations for DFIRMS and hazard mitigation planning; supported FEMA’s Map Modernization program in which several of our members received modernized flood maps and flood studies; we actively supported bills in the Legislature, which directed millions of dollars to enhance floodplain management authority and increase funds among other beneficial steps; distributed NOAA weather radios throughout our coalition; supported grants for our members through TWDB and FEMA for many issues, including LIDAR. The Coalition completed a Map Needs Assessment to collect and rank unmet map needs from member communities throughout the basin. This is still ongoing and we are applying for another study within our coalition. We have worked with FEMA and TWDB to address the collected unmet map needs through the Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) program with TWDB as the CTP. As part of this effort, a 10.2 million dollar 5 year mapping plan has been completed.

TCRFC is in the process of completing a $950,000 Hazard Mitigation Funding (PDM) grant and plan update with our team including Jeff Ward & Associates and Halff Associates. This includes 16 counties and 63 communities. The San Bernard Watershed Mapping Updates are near completion. We received a $700,000 CTP FEMA grant to update mapping for 185 stream miles in Wharton and Fort Bend Counties.

In addition, TCRFC participated in the Austin-Travis Lakes Watershed Mapping Updates (in progress) by providing TCRFC Map Needs Assessment requests to FEMA for incorporation with the FEMA project to update mapping in Burnet, Travis and Hays Counties. (TCRFC Web map displays FEMA floodplains for all TCRFC counties).

TCRFC is busy doing more for our members each day. This is just a partial list of activity and accomplishments. We are so glad to have many TFMA members in our coalition. Just my opinion, but I believe more coalitions within the TFMA family would be a positive move across the state. You can contact us at your TFMA office. We share the same roof.

My cell number is 979-533-8683. I am glad to be a part of such a great organization! Visit us at www.tcrfc.org.

See you at the TFMA conference in September at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort & Spa in Lost Pines.

God bless y’all,

Mickey Reynolds
TCRFC Executive Director
Texas FloodED
2016 Grassroots Education Effort to Introduce TFMA to our Elected Officials

Program Goals:
- Organize volunteers from TFMA membership into 2 – 4 person teams based on the Texas State Senator and Representative Geographic Location/Districts.
- Each team will have a Team Lead and will be provided with training on how to set up meeting, talking points, and general tips for meeting with your elected officials.
- Teams will schedule meetings in the Rep/Senator’s Home (District) Office.
- Meet with key Texas Representatives and Senators before July 1, 2016 to introduce TFMA.
- Team Lead will provide a summary report of each meeting to the TFMA Executive Office. An overall summary report will be reviewed by TFMA Board this summer.

Program Timeframe:
- March 2016:
  - Campaign Introduction - March 10th at TFMA spring conference in Houston, TX.
  - Enlist volunteers from TFMA membership through end of March.
- April 2016:
  - Training - Webinar on how to set up a meeting, talking points, and do’s/don’t’s.
  - Provide teams with the tools and templates for taking notes and evaluating the success of each meeting (ex. document attendees, date, questions asked by legislators’ staff, rating for meeting).
- May – June 2016:
  - TFMA meetings with Representative/Senator at the home district offices.
  - Teams will meet with Reps/Senators. Take a packet to the Rep/Senator with TFMA info material.
  - End of June 2016: Mail/Deliver TFMA packet to Rep/Senator’s Office if no meeting was able to be scheduled.
- July 2016:
  - Deadline for teams to send summary report to TFMA office. TFMA office will summarize results and report out at TFMA Board Retreat.

Sign Up to Help!
- Great way to give back to the floodplain management community.
- Chance to meet your elected official.
- Meet and network with other TFMA members in your area as you meet with your elected officials.
- Make an impact on potential future flood-related policy, legislation, and funding in Texas!

If interested please send an email with your name and home address to the TFMA Office: tfma@tfma.org and reference that you would like to be a “FloodED Volunteer”.
TFMA and Social Media - Twitter

Social media is a fast and effective way to spread the word on what is happening in communities throughout Texas and beyond when it comes to flooding and other issues. Here are some great “tweets” that were posted during the recent April floods. Don’t know how to “tweet?” - Call TFMA and we’ll show you how!

Meet Newest Member of the Certification Board of Regents (CBOR)

The ASFPM Board of Directors recently approved a new regent to CBOR.

Joe Fernandez, CFM, senior engineering technician with San Antonio River Authority in Texas, was named CBOR’s chapter regent.

The ASFPM board created the Certification Board of Regents to administer the national CFM program. The charter mandated CBOR must be made up of representation from local government, state chapters, state government, FEMA, Emergency Management Institute, academia and the private sector.

A big welcome to our newest member!

CONGRATULATIONS JOE!
TFMA and TX Weather Conference Team Up with Inaugural TX Weather Conference

TFMA joined with the National Weather Service Austin-San Antonio Forecast Office, academic, and emergency management partners to host the inaugural Texas Weather Conference in Austin, Texas on February 5-6, 2016. Nearly every NWS unit with operations in Texas, atmospheric science and hydrology professors and students from Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, and the University of Texas at Austin, and broadcast meteorologists and state and local emergency managers were represented. The conference theme was "Preparedness to Prediction to Protection." Conference topic sessions included severe weather, river and flash flooding, tropical weather, climate and fire weather, and weather decision support. Keynote speakers included former National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read and Texas Department of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd.

Conference co-chairs Jon Zeitler and Dr. Larry Hopper said: 'The Texas Weather Conference simply would not have happened without the partnership and support of TFMA, notably Executive Director Roy Sedwick and Office Administrator Markie Casebier.' The partnership among many participants and TFMA has extended back for many years, especially through the Texas Flash Flood Coalition. The Texas Weather Conference Committee looks forward to partnering with TFMA in the future, offering additional opportunities for TFMA members to participate (e.g., as presenters, earning continuing education credits, exhibit space), and for atmos-
The 28th Annual Spring Conference was a huge success with over 556 in attendance. This conference could not have been possible without YOU our members attending the support of the following companies and their sponsorship.

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28th Annual TFMA Spring Conference Award Winners

Congratulations to all of the following who won one of TFMA’s coveted awards at the 28th Annual TFMA Spring Conference held in Houston. Thanks to everyone who submitted nominations and please send in nominations now for the 29th Annual TFMA Spring Conference to be held in Richardson, TX in April 25-28, 2017.

**Roy D. Sedwick Award:**
Ross Richardson, FEMA Region 6

**Special Recognition Award:**
Dale Hoff, CFM, FEMA Region 6

**Corporate Sponsor of the Year:**
Parkhill, Smith & Cooper

**Agency of the Year Award:**
Texas Water Development Board

**Special Recognition Award:**
Shawn Snyder, CFM

**Floodplain Manager of the Year:**
Danny Halden, PE, CFM, City of Round Rock

Continued on next page....
28th Annual TFMA Spring Conference Award Winners (continued)

John P. Ivey Higher Standards Award:
Bastrop County

John Patton Community Project Award:
City of Austin

The City Floodplain Management Excellence Award was presented on March 17 to the City of Wimberley. L to R: Roy Sedwick, CFM, Mayor Steve Thurber, and John Espinoza, PE, CFM

28th Annual TFMA Spring Conference Exhibitors

A BIG thank you to all the following for exhibiting at the 2016 Annual Spring Conference in Houston. Your presence is an educational and important part of the conference.

AECOM
Atkins
Belgard/Old Castle
Dannenbaum Engineering
Dewberry
Flood Flaps Foundation Flood Vents
FloodSmart
Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Halff Associates
H2O Partners, Inc.
HDR Engineering
High Sierra Electronics
IDS Engineering Group
J & G Concrete Products
Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.
Muscle Wall
OTT Hydromat
Pacheco Koch
Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc.
PS Flood Barriers
Presray Corporation
Smart Vent Products, Inc.
THC, Inc.
XP Solutions
Congratulations to our Newest CFMs - January through April

The Spring 2016 Conference was a record breaking event for TFMA in many ways with a staggering 82 participants sitting for the CFM Exam. A few short weeks after the conference, a 4-day class was held in Cedar Park adding another 20 new CFMs. Since the inception of the CFM program, TFMA has certified over 3,000 Certified Floodplain Managers.

The CFM program is strong, proud and growing leaders. Each new CFM is taking on the challenge to promote flood safety, educate the public about flood awareness and support the floodplain community with new thoughts and ideas. Congratulations to our newly certified.

Jasmine Acero – Harris County Engineering Department
Jose Alberto Almada – Omega Engineers, Inc.
Jameson Appel – City of Friendswood
Jae Baag – WSP Parsons Binckerhoff
Stuart Barron – City of Kerrville
Mark Berry – TxDOT
Emily Booth – CDM Smith
Kyle Blank – Jones & Carter
Lisa Fleming Brown – City of Baytown
Elizabeth A. Carol – City of Leon Valley
Rebecca Chavez – CP&Y, Inc.
George Cherepes – City of Friendswood
Ted Chu – AECOM Technical Services, Inc.
Keestan Cole – Arceneaux Wilson & Cole, LLC
Scott Cunningham – Jones & Carter, Inc.
Peter Davies – Harris County Flood Control District
Ruben De La Fuente, Jr. – EHRA
Kyle Denny – AECOM Technical Services, Inc.
Manny Durate – City of Pflugerville
Orchid Farghaly – Omega Engineers, Inc.
Jacob Frazelle – Harris County Engineering Department
George Gilbert – City of Killeen
Cassandra Gill – City of Dayton
Brian Greathouse – Omega Engineers, Inc.
Yasmin Gutierrez – SARA
Kenny Haerkamp – NCTCOG
Kevin Harrell – City of Cuero
Hieu Hart – Weisser Engineering, Co.
Claudia Hill – Tetra Tech
Erin Hostetler – Scheibe Consulting, LLC
Rebecca Howe – Harris County Engineering Department
Christina Hughes – Walter P. Moore
Jennifer Jackson – CP&Y, Inc.
Mounika Jella – Dannenbaum Engineering, Corp.
Sarah Johnson – AECOM Technical Services, Inc.
Christine Klein – Freese & Nichols, Inc.
Tej Kour – Neel-Schaffer
Wesley LeFevre – LeFevre Engineering & Management Consulting, LLC
Alan C. Lewis – LAN
Ryan Londene – Bleyl & Associates
Abderrahmane Maamar – TxDOT
Michael McClung – RPS Klotz Associates
Raymond Mejia – TDEM
Christian Mercado – AECOM
Daniel Moreno – Harris County Engineering Department
Christopher Moss – City of Fort Worth
Leslie Munoz Ordonez – Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Alexa Nichols – EHRA
Emma Obeng-Boampong – City of San Antonio
Marc Ochoa – Arceneaux Wilson & Cole, LLC
DeAnna Ordonez – Payne Industries
Noah Parsons – City of San Antonio
Luis Partida – Omega Engineers, Inc.
Patrick Phillips – Omega Engineers, Inc.
Nicholas Ramones – Self Employed
Matthew Rector – City of Del Rio
Trent Robertson – City of Kerrville
Jessica Rogers – AECOM Technical Services, Inc.
Kimberley Roper – Ward, Getz & Associates, LLP
Gene Rushing – Harris County Flood Control District
Nicole Rutigliano – Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Guillermo Salcedo – City of Sugar Land
Aubrey Semien – Harris County Engineering Department
Sahas Shrestha – Fenstermaker
Justin Terry – Walter P. Moore
Jorge Urquidi – City of Austin Watershed Protection Dept.
Joel Valdez – Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Luiz Valdez – City of Leon Valley
Donna Wall – City of Ennis
Wan-Yi – Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Kristen Weidenfeller – AECOM Technical Services, Inc.
Chris Wilde – KSA
Benjamin Worsham – City of McAllen

Congratulations to our Newest CFMs - January through April
TFMA Training & Fall Technical Summit

*Floodplain 101, Friday, May 13 – Houston
CFM Exam Opportunity, Friday, May 20 – Houston
TFMA Region 4 & 10 Educational Luncheon, Tuesday, May 17 – Grapevine
NFIP Refresher, Thursday, May 19 – Texarkana
TFMA Region 6 Educational Luncheon, Thursday, June 2 – San Antonio
TFMA Regional County Workshop, Wednesday, June 8 - Hillsboro
*4 Day Floodplain Management G273 Course with Exam, Monday, June 20 – Pasadena
4 Day Advanced Floodplain Management L284 Course, August 1 – 4 – San Antonio

*Open to NON-CFMs ONLY

Need Training in your area? Contact the TFMA Office at 512-260-1366 to see how we can help you.

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2016 TFMA Fall Technical Summit
September 7 - 9 * Hyatt Lost Pines Resort
Lost Pines, Texas

REGISTRATION OPENS JUNE 1

Over the River and through the Floodplain

Outreach in Action

Luz Locke, CFM, City of Pasadena has taken part in several outreach events in the past months. On April 2, she was present at the Trash Bash and telling folks about TADD! People came, cleaned up and left having not only Bashed some Trash, but also learning about TexAnna TaddPole and TADD. In all, 50 coloring books were distributed to the attendees.

On April 5, there was a Volunteer Expo presenting Luz with another opportunity to spread the word about TADD. A total of 45 books were distributed during the Volunteer Expo. Great job Luz!!

If you or your community need any outreach materials, please contact us at 512-260-1366 or via email at tfma@tfma.org. If you are planning or have completed any outreach programs, please write a short article for us to share in the newsletter. TFMA wants to know what is happening in your region.
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