



THE LIGHTNING ROD

Summer 2015 The Official Newsletter of the Texas Floodplain Management Association

Volume 20, Issue 2

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Wild Texas Weather!

As we open up the month of June, we have reached the halfway point in year 2015 and what a busy year TFMA has had with training and a successful Spring Conference. With our accomplishments thus far, we have also been faced with tremendous tragedies with the Memorial Day flooding that took place in May. We have lots of work still to do and lots of challenges ahead to fulfill the mission of TFMA, especially in light of the recent flood deaths in Texas.



This loss of life should not happen! Yet we must be compassionate about our fellow man, so pray for the lost and God Bless the families of those lost in floods and give them comfort during these trying times.

For me, the loss of so many precious lives is hard to take. Are we not doing enough to educate drivers? Are we not doing enough to help them identify and warn about low water crossings and where they are in their communities? How do we manage to barricade our flooded roads and bridges? How do we enforce the barricade law? So many questions and not enough answers. TFMA needs to do more and we will.

One thing jumps out at me this time around – a record wet month of May. Many cities across Texas have experienced one of the wettest months in their history and this is especially important since so much of our state has been in an extended drought for several years now. Many of our water supply reservoirs were dangerously low and some still are, but many also received beneficial inflows over the past month. Some lakes even filled up and had to make releases, contributing to flooding downstream.

And if a wild May is not enough, we are now facing the 2015 Hurricane season. What will the tropics bring to Texas? More rain, more flooding, more damage, more deaths? Without a crystal ball, no one can say for sure, but after what has occurred this first half of 2015, we must prepare ourselves for the worst and hope and pray for the best. Our communities must be weather ready, our families must be weather ready. TFMA must be prepared to assist in this endeavor.

So what lies ahead for Texas weather? Who knows, but many are saying with an El Nino pattern in place, we may see more of this wet, unsettled and unpredictable weather. We have already experienced numerous tornadoes across the state with several deaths and numerous hail and wind storms, not to mention lightning strikes starting fires. Wild Texas Weather!

Be Weather-wise and flood safe my friends. Let's all plan to close out 2015 on a much safer side.

Roy D. Sedwick, CFM
TFMA Executive Director

But what worries me the most is the flooding. The Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, San Marcos/Wimberly area, Austin and San Antonio Metro area, greater Houston area and Corpus Christi have been some of the hardest hit areas. Flooding was a common and persistent problem in many portions of Texas during May with some phenomenal rainfall amounts, some exceeding 10 inches. As stated, the rain has been beneficial to a drought ravaged Texas, but with the benefits comes a staggering cost – **loss of human life**. We've had too many flood deaths in Texas and most disturbing is that many are vehicle related and involved drivers making bad decisions and driving around barricades. Not only is this a deadly and "DUMD THING" to do, but it is also "ILLEGAL" in Texas.

Breaking News

FEMA Adds 51 Additional Texas Counties to Presidential Disaster Declaration

[Click here](#) to view or copy/paste the following link to your browser:

<http://www.fema.gov/news-release/2015/06/10/fema-public-assistance-extended-51-additional-texas-counties>



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 Fall Issue is
September 15, 2015.
Members—SHARE
your floodplain management
experience.
Articles are needed.**

A Message from the President

I am thrilled and honored to start my term as your TFMA President! I joined TFMA just over 10 years ago and have been amazed at the growth and success our association continues to enjoy.



At our Spring Conference, our new TFMA Board of Directors was inducted. I look forward to working with this amazing group of professionals who represent a wide variety of expertise in floodplain management backgrounds. The Board will meet this summer at our retreat to assess our accomplishments from the past several years and set new goals for moving forward. We just wrapped up a successful Spring Conference in Dallas where we were fortunate to have FEMA Region 6 Administrator Tony Robinson join us as the keynote speaker at the Thursday lunch. Tony discussed FEMA’s goal to build resilient communities and emphasized that by building strong partnerships, we can all achieve more together. This is one of our main goals over the next several years – to continue to strengthen our relationships and partnerships with federal, state, regional and local agencies that have a common mission to promote mitigation and risk reduction. Together we can accomplish more.

Another goal we plan to discuss is building our TFMA Committees into working groups with more active participation from our membership. The Stormwater Committee, led by Steve Eubanks and Jill Trevino, has been an excellent example of a model for how this can be achieved. TFMA would benefit greatly from working groups like this that focus on key issues and challenges we face in floodplain management. If you are interested in becoming more involved in TFMA or have ideas, please don’t hesitate to contact me (jbaker@half.com) or the TFMA office (tfma1@att.net). Volunteering for a committee is the best way to network with other professionals in our industry and assist our organization in achieving this year’s goals.

Our TFMA Fall Technical Summit is September 2 – 4, 2015 in Houston. I hope to see you all there!

Jessica D. Baker, PE, CFM, PMP
TFMA 2015 – 2017 President

TFMA Website Questions

Q: Where is my CFM number on my profile?

A: When you sign in, simply click on “My Profile” > Click on the “Bio” tab and your CFM# will be there along with other very useful information such as your previous year’s CEC courses too!

Q: I need to register for a training session you are offering but the system won’t let me. Why?

A: More than likely, it is because the course is full or registration has ended. When in doubt though, call us at 512-260-1366 just in case!

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 TFMA - Our Pioneers

Twenty-five plus years ago, an idea was born out of necessity. With the inspiration, blood, sweat, a few tears and hard work of a group of dedicated individuals, the Texas Floodplain Management Association was born. At the annual Spring conference, this original group of members were recognize with the "Pioneer Award". We did say good bye to one of our founding members in 2014, but Terry Pribble was a supporter and was dedicated to floodplain management and education throughout his career.

While there were a larger number of members that first year, only a handful still remain as current TFMA members today. To commemorate those who were the founders and consistent members since the beginning, the TFMA PIONEER AWARDS were presented to:

Robert Barker
Wes Birdwell
James Caffey
Penny Good
Donald Hatcher
Lynn Hilburn
John Ivey
Lynn Lovell
Cathy Meek
Terry Pribble
Roy Sedwick
Billy Zwerschke



Pioneers Present during the Award Luncheon on April 16: (L to R top row) Roy Sedwick, John Ivey, Cathy Meek, Lynn Lovell. (Front row, L to R) Robert Barker, James Caffey and Wes Birdwell

**CONGRATULATIONS and
many thanks for your dedication
and years of service to TFMA!**



Stevens Park Golf Course



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

www.freese.com

City of Austin Completes Another Successful TADD Poster Contest

For a number of years now, the City of Austin – Watershed Protection and Emergency Management Departments have hosted a Turn Around Don't Drown (TADD) poster contest among area-wide schools. This year's poster theme – "Save Yourself! Turn Around Don't Drown" was well received and resulted in some great artwork from 522 participating kids representing 28 area schools. There are three grade categories: Grade Category: 1st and 2nd Grades; Grade Category 2: 3rd to 5th grades; and Grade Category 3: 6th to 8th grades.

Below are the results from this selection. Congratulations to the winners of the City of Austin's annual Flood Safety Poster Contest! In my opinion, they are all winners!

Grade Category 1: 1st to 2nd Grades

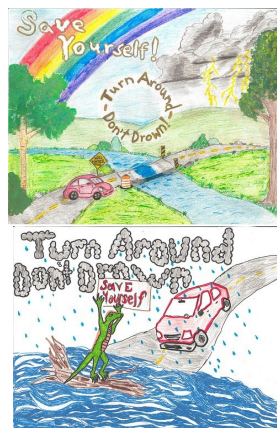
- 1st Place: Bodie Scott, England Elementary School
- 2nd Place: Wesley Kwan, Hill Country Christian School
- 3rd Place: Avery Qualters, St. Gabriel's Catholic School
- 4th Place: Miah Mcaulay, St. Gabriel's Catholic School

Grade Category 2: 3rd to Fifth Grades

- 1st Place: Leonel Rangel, Volma Overton
- 2nd Place: Myriah Vicklund, Creedmoor Elementary
- 3rd Place: Ashton Vicklund, Creedmoor Elementary
- 4th Place: Bethany Kwan, Hill Country Christian

Grade Category 3: 6th to 8th Grades

- 1st Place: Ian McKenna, Kealing Middle School Magnet
- 2nd Place: Isabella Garner, Murchison Middle School
- 3rd Place: Erin Gretta, Canyon Vista Middle School
- 4th Place: Sam Gupta, Paredes Middle School & Manuel Mendoza, Dobie Middle School (*tie*)



This year, the competition was so great that we had a tie for fourth place in Category 3. First time this has happened!

The Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) is proud and honored to be a part of this fantastic flood safety awareness event hosted by the City of Austin over the years. TFMA provides all the gift cards and ribbons for the 12 winners, or in this case 13. TFMA is granted use of the winning posters which we in turn, utilize to produce our annual TADD Calendar. The TADD Calendar is our #1 flood safety outreach item and is widely sought out by our membership for use in local outreach events. Thanks to the Texas Water Development Board, our NFIP state coordinating agency, the calendars are now printed utilizing state/federal funding which frees up additional funds in the TFMA budget for use in other outreach products. The 2016 TADD calendars will first become available for distribution at the TFMA Fall Technical Summit in Houston, Texas on September 2-4, 2015.

To learn more on the City of Austin Flood Poster contest, visit the following website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/floodposters>. Special thanks to City of Austin to our judges for a job well done. And most important- Thanks to all the kids who participated. You are all winners in our eyes. You got it right!



TFMA Legislative Update



At the State Capitol

By: Wes Birdwell, P.E.

TFMA Legislative Committee Chair

Legislative Update May 2015 - Bills of Interest – 2015 Session

There were several bills this Session that affect floodplain management. I don't know if I caught all of them, so please let me know if there was one I missed. Here are a few:

SB 360 – by Senator Craig Estes – Wichita Falls - Referred to Senate State Affairs on 2-2-15 and has not been heard since; no movement as of this date. The bill is dead unless parts can get added as amendments to another bill – however, the bill has to be germane to the subject matter in this bill. You can read the bill here:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/billtext/pdf/SB00360I.pdf#navpanes=0>

This bill pertains to what constitutes a taking. It would lower the threshold for a taking from 25% to 20% and would count losses that were cumulative over 10 years rather than being tied to one specific government action. It also removes the exemption for actions relating to regulating new development within an identified floodplain and removes the exemption for actions taken a political subdivision as required under federal or state code. This in effect could mean that communities' floodplain management regulations could be considered a taking, even those regulations meant to enforce the minimum standards of the NFIP. Along with weakening community's floodplain management programs, it could have unintended consequences for developers if communities are no longer able to participate in the NFIP and residents of those communities are unable to secure loans due to a lack of available flood insurance.

SB1846 – By Senator Sylvia Garcia - Houston - Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee on 3-25-15 and has not been heard; no movement as of this date. This bill is also dead. You can read the bill here:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/billtext/pdf/SB01846I.pdf#navpanes=0>

This bill pertains to the criminal penalty for violating the Flood Control and Insurance Act. This appears to be a positive bill that amends the state water code to say that someone commits a criminal act not just by violating subchapter 16 of the state water code, but that they also commit a criminal act if they violate any rule or ordinance adopted under subchapter 16. COA interpretation of this is that it amends the language to say that if someone violates a communities floodplain ordinance they also in effect have violated state water code since subchapter 16 is what enables communities to enact flood ordinance and participate in the NFIP.

HB 3340 – by Representative Dwayne Bohac – Houston – Referred to the House Calendars on 5-12-15 and died in Calendars before the Thursday, May 14 deadline for house bills to have second reading by the full House of Representatives. Again, this bill is dead unless parts can get added as amendments to another bill – however, the bill has to be germane to the subject matter in this bill. There was no Senate sponsor. You can read the bill here:

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/billtext/pdf/HB03340I.pdf#navpanes=0>

(Continued on next page)

TFMA Legislative Update - Continued

This bill relates to the designation, functions, accreditation, and continuing education of floodplain administrators; adding provisions subject to a civil or criminal penalty. It has been called The Mike Howard Bill.

SB 413 update – by Senator Kel Seliger –Amarillo – Re: TWDB Membership Has passed out of the Senate and has been left pending in the House Natural Resources Committee as of 5/18/15. Depending upon the support for this bill in the Senate, this could be added as an amendment to another bill that is germane. Since there are other bills dealing with the TWDB, there might be a vehicle still viable for adding this as an amendment. This bill would have affected Bech Bruun’s seat on the TWDB. Current law after last session required one of the members to have experience in the field of engineering, one of the members to have experience in the field of public or private finance, and one of the members to have experience in the field of business or law.



Wes Birdwell, PE,
TFMA Legislative Chair

From the SB413 bill analysis:

The agriculture industry is vital to the Texas economy, and agricultural water users account for more than half of the annual water use in the state. C.S.S.B 413 requires that the third member be actively engaged in the business of production agriculture rather than business or law. It also requires that one of the three members reside in a rural area and be a registered voter of a county with a population of less than 355,000. C.S.S.B. 413 amends current law relating to the qualifications for membership of the Texas Water Development Board.

Bech’s appointment was up on February 1, 2015. He drew the shortest term when the new Board started two years ago. We don’t know if Governor Abbott intends to re-appoint him or not and if this law passes, he likely will appoint someone else to appease the rural members of the legislature and other rural interests, probably someone from West Texas.

House and Senate riders by Rep. Donna Howard and Senator Kirk Watson (Austin) to increase state funding for the state NFIP program at the Texas Water Development Board were not included in either the House or Senate Appropriations bills. Riders to increase agencies’ funding were not accepted in Committee or on the floor votes. During the interim TFMA needs to work with TWDB and members on this issue for the 2017 session in order to build support in both houses.

It’s not for lack of trying, but we struck out again. That’s the bad news. The good news is we now have two years to get ready for the next legislative session. The simple truth is that our friends who work on floodplain issues at the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) are understaffed and overworked. We need more than two or three people working on statewide floodplain issues in Texas. We should have 20-30 at a minimum. When the program was moved to TWDB back in 2007 we were able to get \$3 Million per year sent to TWDB to pay for about 10 staff. That was barely enough, but then the funding got taken away the next time the legislature came to Austin. Our goal two years from now will be to get this funding reinstated. The state tax on sales of flood insurance policies is now about \$6 Million per year. We want half of this sent to the TWDB to help fund more staff, more training, more new maps, and more technical assistance. Our goal in the next 12 months will be to work with TWDB to better define how we can help each other and agree that more staff is needed to work with our communities and FEMA.

There will be a TFMA Board Work Session this summer, with TWDB, to lay out some of the issues and see if we can work together to improve floodplain management in Texas. Additional funding for the state NFIP program at the TWDB will not happen unless we work hard and diligently during the interim to build support with TWDB leadership and also with legislators around the state.

Stay tuned. Wes

Breaking News - Bech Bruun was appointed Chair of the Texas Water Development Board by Governor Greg Abbott on June 10. [Click here](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/about/board/index.asp) to view or copy/paste the following link to your browser:
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/about/board/index.asp>

FEMA Region VI CAP Meeting

Twice a year, Spring and Fall, FEMA Region VI hosts a meeting for the five states in the region to discuss and plan for FEMA's Community Assistance Program (CAP). Each year, states must submit a CAP plan detailing aggressive work plans to conduct CAV's & CACs, provide NFIP community assistance, conduct training and coordinate NFIP activities in their appropriate states. In exchange, FEMA provides supplemental funding to the states to support and enhance NFIP activities.

A very positive impact that doesn't occur in other FEMA regions – FEMA Region VI invites the five state floodplain management associations to not only attend but also have an active part in planning future CAP activities in their respective states. TFMA Executive Director Roy D. Sedwick, CFM, TFMA President, Jessica Baker, PE, CFM, PMP and TFMA Office Manager Markie Casebier attended the two day meeting in Denton, Texas on May 20-21, 2015.

Joining TFMA at the meeting were representatives from the other four state associations: New Mexico Floodplain Management Association (NMFMA), Oklahoma Floodplain Management Association (OFMA), Arkansas Floodplain Management Association (AFMA) and Louisiana Floodplain Management Association (LFMA). Also joining the group were NFIP State Coordinators from Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Louisiana

Department of Transportation & Development, and Texas' own – Michael Segner, CFM from Texas Water Development Board.

Each NFIP State Coordinating agency along with its state association counterpart was given one hour each on the program to present and discuss NFIP successes and failures, briefings on training and conferences and special outreach projects. The reminder of the meeting was taken up with various presentations from FEMA personnel and others. A copy of the TFMA power point slide show presented at the meeting and the agenda is posted on the TFMA website:

TFMA appreciates the opportunity to present our programs and association updates as well as the opportunity to hear how the other states and associations approach floodplain management and outreach to the public. We Thank FEMA for allowing the associations to participate and also thank the other states and associations for sharing their NFIP activities. We learn so much from hearing from others. As our friend in Louisiana says "We see something we like – We steal with zeal"

One thing we always learn at these meetings – "WE" – Working together in partnership, WE are making a difference. And with your help from local communities, WE will make Texas a safer place to live. Thanks for your help and support!

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 2015 Spring Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors

Zone X—\$3,500 Level



Zone AE—\$1,800 Level



Floodway Zone—\$1,000 Level



WALTER P MOORE

Official Attendee Folder Sponsors



Official Tote Bag Sponsors



2015 TFMA Exhibitors

AECOM	J & G Concrete
Atkins	LAN
CP & Y, Inc.	Old Castle Texas
Dewberry	OTT Hydromet
FloodSmart	Pacheco Koch
Freese & Nichols	Parkhill, Smith & Cooper
H2O Partners	PS Doors
Halff Associates	RPS Group
HDR	Teague Nall & Perkins
Hesco Bastion	THC, Inc.
High Sierra	XP Solutions

MANY THANKS TO FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

27th Annual TFMA Spring Conference

Over 400 individuals participated in the 27th Annual TFMA Spring Conference held in Dallas at the Westin Park Central over the dates of April 14-17. Highlights of the conference included over 15 hours of continuing professional development workshops and concurrent sessions including the opening and closing plenary sessions. Participants were also treated to the first ever Casino Night with the opportunity to try their skills at Black Jack and Texas Hold'em. A delicious dinner buffet was served and fun was had by all who attended.

On Thursday, the annual Membership Luncheon was held with a featured luncheon speaker Tony Robinson, FEMA Region VI Administrator along with the awards presentations and election results. Thursday night's reception was held in the exhibit hall where attendees enjoyed food and drinks all while bidding on the popular Silent Auction. The conference ended on Friday with an Agency panel discussion addressing questions from the audience. Don't miss out on next year's conference. It promises to be one of the best.



Tony Robinson (left), FEMA Region VI Administrator speaks at the Membership Luncheon on Thursday.



Above: Roy Sedwick welcomes the crowd. On the Left: Lori McLennan, Ronnie Bollom and Monica Martin enjoy the conference



To the Left: Representatives from Pachecho Koch. To the Right: Representatives from Parkhill Smith and Cooper



Attendees enjoy the Wednesday Night Banquet playing the tables. This event was complimentary to all who registered for the full conference.



27th Annual TFMA Spring Conference Award Winners



City Floodplain Management Excellence Award
City of Cedar Park



2015 Floodplain Manager of the Year
Romin Khavari, PE, CFM.
City of Grand Prairie



County Floodplain Management Excellence Award
Wilson County



Special Recognition Award
John Espinoza, PE, CFM



Roy D. Sedwick Service Award:
John Grounds, PE, CFM



Agency of the Year
FEMA Region 6



Corporate Sponsor of the Year



John P. Ivey Higher Standards Award
City of Dallas

Congratulations to everyone!

TFMA ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT (CEC) REQUIREMENTS

By: Amy Ronnfeldt, PE, CFM

TFMA Certification Committee Chair

Life as a CFM just got easier! TFMA's Board of Directors approved changes to the CEC Criteria. The biggest change? NO MORE PARALLEL COURSES! That's right, now you don't have to decide whether anything is a core or parallel subject, it either counts or it doesn't.

There are also new subjects added which cover the business side of being a floodplain manager, such as communication skills, presentation skills and organizational skills. Won't it be nice to get credit for learning how to run your program? Or to learn how to make the best impression to your city council? There's also no more restriction on taking the same training in multiple years, you just can't take it more than once each year. So that FPM101 refresher? Go ahead - take it again! You can also earn CECs for preparing and teaching a course (2 CECs for each hour of instruction).



As a reminder, each CFM is required to earn a minimum of 8 CECs each year to maintain certification status. A maximum of 4 CECs may be rolled over to the next calendar year as long as they are new hours earned.

Anything reasonably deemed to be flood-related and/or addressing floodplain management core competencies may be considered eligible for CECs. CEC-eligible subjects / topics include but are not limited to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Benefit-cost analysis | Floodproofing |
| Building construction (including Codes) | Hurricane response |
| Communication Skills | Hydrology and Hydraulics |
| Conflict Resolution | Land Use Management (including LID) |
| Customer Service Skills | Leadership and Management Skills |
| Dam and Levee safety | Multi-objective management |
| Disaster assistance procedures | Negotiation Skills |
| Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 | The National Flood Insurance Program |
| Disaster Response and Recovery | The National Flood Insurance Program Legislation |
| Elevation certificates | No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management |
| Emergency management | Presentation Skills, Public Speaking |
| Facilitation Skills, Train the Trainer | Public information programs |
| Flood hazard mitigation -
(<i>non-structural and structural</i>) | SkyWarn and Storm Ready |
| Flood insurance | Stormwater management |
| Flooding and flood hazards | Stream gaging |
| Floodplain management -
(<i>non-structural and structural</i>) | Time Management and Organizational Skills |
| Floodplain management ordinance administration | Water quality programs |
| Floodplain management regulations | Water resource management |
| Floodplain mapping (including GIS, LIDAR etc) | Watershed management |
| Floodplains and ecosystems (Section 404) | Wetlands management |

**Got questions?
Call TFMA at 512-260-1366.**

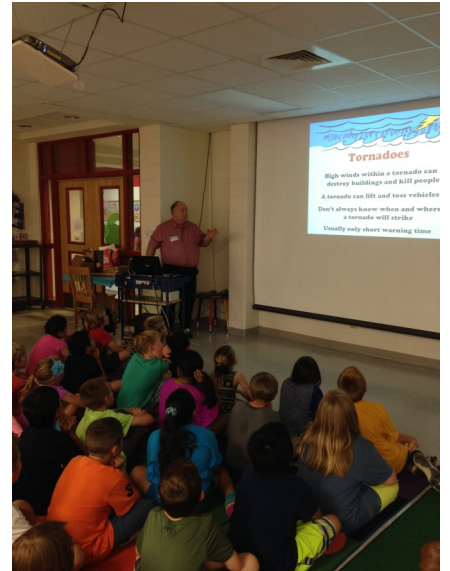
TFMA Outreach Activities - Bandera

The timing could not have been better. Bandera had just seen flooding of the Medina River and many evacuations throughout their town during Memorial Day weekend. TexAnna TADDpole rolled into town as the flood waters were receding and introduced herself to four classes of third graders at Alkek Elementary School in Bandera.

The students were all eyes and ears as TFMA's own Roy Sedwick spoke to the classes about flood waters and the dangers of crossing highways and streams experiencing a flash flood. He explained how six inches of water could knock a full grown man off his feet and a foot of rapidly flowing water could wash a car off the road. Roy did not have to emphasize the point too much. These kids had seen it, watched it and experienced it firsthand.

When asked how many of the parents had driven through a low-water crossing the weekend of the flood, a staggering number of more than half the students raised their hands. By the end of the presentation, they were armed with the knowledge of what flooding can do to roads, homes and lives and they were prepared to share the information! It was like sitting in on a pep rally when Roy asked the kids what they were going to say if Mom or Dad tried to drive around a barricade. They all shouted,

"TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN"!!



TFMA Outreach Activities - Denton

Rigel Rucker, TFMA member, recently visited two classes at Virginia Gallian Child Development Center in Denton, Texas to talk about flood safety. The classes consisted of 4 and 5 year olds, proving no one is too young to learn about TADD!

He started by introducing himself to the students and that he was going to talk with them about flood safety. Next he talked about rain, what happens to water after it rains, and the benefits of rain including how much fun it can be. He showed pictures as he was talking to the children. TexAnna TADDpole was introduced to the class and Rigel was able to tell them all about "Turn Around Don't Drown". Using the TexAnna coloring book as a reference, the class learned some safety tips about flooding and being prepared. By the end of the presentation, everyone was ready to help spread the message – TADD!!!

Rigel also used the Stormwater Model to demonstrate the hazards of flash floods. Before he left, the students had lots of questions for which Rigel had the answers to. The following day, the teachers sent the following message:

"They LOVED it so much. They pretended to be "flood people police" on the playground. The boys were pushing the dump trucks around the playground telling people to move off the sidewalk because a flood is coming. Holden used your words...."Look over there (pointing to his friend across the playground), that guy didn't learn his lesson!!! Thank you for coming and talking to them!"



Congratulations to our Newest CFMs

Vanessa Benavides - AECOM
Jerett Broten - Parker County
Evan Burn - Freese & Nichols, Inc.
Sylvia Carrillo - City of Aransas Pass
David Castellano - Johnston, LLC
Bruce Cole - River Specialists
Kyle Corey - Coreyco Engineering
John Devlin - FEMA, Region VI
Kyle Dickey - Kimley-Horn & Associates
Chris Edwards - Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc.
Jake Fisher - HDR
Ronald Fix - Self-employed
Reece Flanagan - Barron, Stark & Swift
Jordan Furnans - INTERA
Carlos Garcia - Halff Associates, Inc.
Adam Gerster - City of Rowlett
Kathryn Hagan - Kimley-Horn & Associates
Jared Horst - Teague Nall & Perkins
Timothy Jeske - Bosque County
Terry Johnson - R.G. Miller
Naven Kathuroju - Michael Baker
Paul Kolker - HydroLink Engineering, LLC
Jared Kowis - R.G. Miller
Bill Laughlin - Bill Laughlin Sales, Inc.
Katherine Moreno - Halff Associates, Inc.
Justin Murray - Vickery & Associates, Inc.
Naomy Perez-Sanchez - Atkins North America, Inc.
Forest Pfeiffer - RRC Power & Energy
Clint Philpott - City of Sherman
Cynthia Pierce - City of Pflugerville
Guy Pokhrel - Teague Nall & Perkins
Elias Potts - Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.
Bo Ratto - Dannenbaum Engineering Corp.

Cissy Sylo - City of Rowlett
Aaron Tainter - Bridgefarmer Associates, Inc.
Vamshi Thummuri - Sirrus Engineers, Inc.
Chris Tschirhart - Self-employed
Gian Villarreal - Michael Baker
Jeremy White - City of Rockwall
Daniel Zell - AECOM

CONGRATULATIONS!

Remember, as a new CFM certified prior to July 1, you will need to renew your membership (\$45) plus the certification fee (\$45) AND submit 6 CECs for your 2016 Renewal.

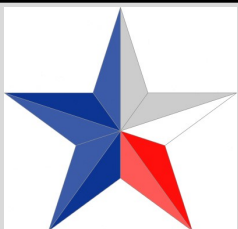
Contact the TFMA office if you have any questions!



2015 Fall Technical Summit - Houston

**Fall
Technical Summit
Sept. 2 - 4, 2015
Hyatt Downtown
Houston**

*After the Floods:
Texas Rising*



Join other floodplain managers, administrators, engineers, storm water specialists from cities, counties, and the private sector at this educational event of the year. The TFMA Summit (formerly the TFMA Fall Conference) is filled with workshops and sessions important to you and your day to day activities.

This program has been planned to cover some of the hottest topics in the industry with practical solutions for you to take back to your office to apply. **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!!**

Go to www.tfma.org NOW or [click here](#) to download your brochure and to register online today.

A Message from the Past

Reprinted from the Lightning Rod, May 2001

BOLDLY GO FORTH AND SERVE

By Kevin Miller, CFM, TFMA Chairman

“One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!” For those of us old enough to remember those words on our black and white television for the first time We are quickly becoming a minority. Those words, and that accomplishment, marked the beginning of a new era. For those of you who are younger and can only relive that excitement on the History channel, I implore you to boldly go where no **one** has gone before. Join with us in taking TFMA into a new era. I heard a statement recently that says, when you work hard toward an achievement, “experience is what you get when you don’t get what you want.” Some of you have gained a great deal of knowledge and experience over recent years that could be extremely valuable to TFMA. I assure you that even a small amount of time invested in TFMA, working side by side with peer professionals, mentoring or learning, will yield a great deal of satisfaction.

One of my mentors when I was younger explained that no one or thing is stagnant. You are either moving forward or backwards at all times. Due to inflation, technology, or just human spirit, it is impossible to stay the same and in one place. Sometime the changes are small and sometime they are enormous. **TFMA is moving forward and with the ideas, experience and professionalism from valuable members like yourself, who are the best in their field, TFMA can continue to make giant leaps into the future. There is one unequivocal fact however – YOU MUST PARTICIPATE!! Without your help, the move forward will be slow and tedious.**

I have been an active member of TFMA for over a decade and have learned a great deal. The challenges of the last 2 years as Chairman have been enjoyable, but it’s time for fresh ideas. We have come very far, but still have a long way to go and much to accomplish.



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 is halfway through 2015 and training is Rocking. Check out the training opportunities below for something near you.

El Paso – June 24 - Floodplain 101 on Steroids

Amarillo – July 20-24 - E273 **just a few seats left*

Houston – September 2-4 - Fall Technical Summit

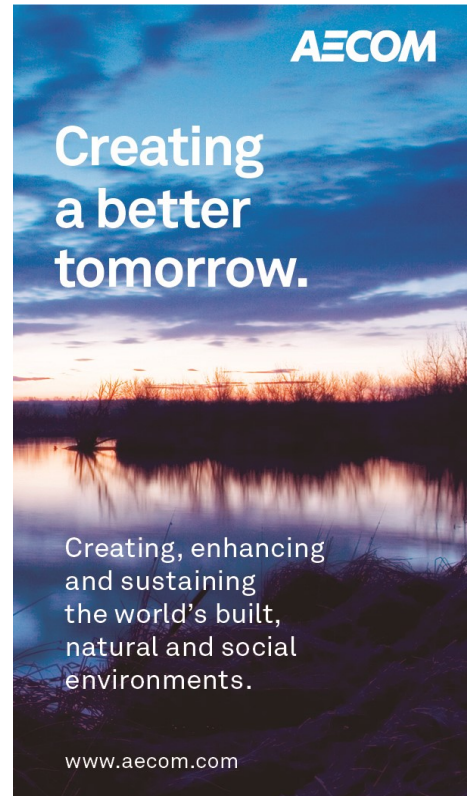
**Registration is NOW open. [Click here](#) to view Summit information on our website.*

Texarkana – September 21 - 25 - E273 **Registration open soon!*

Fort Worth – TxDOT Floodplain Management Course

**Registration opens soon!*

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



Virtual Brown Bag Webinars: Using Flood Risk Products

FEMA Region 6 has developed a suite of products to assist community officials and their local Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff as they pair local data with the flood risk datasets delivered during a flood risk study in their watershed. The flood risk datasets are developed for communities during the Risk Identification and Assessment Phase of a study. These data are delivered to the community through the Flood Risk Database (FRD) and may be available online at FEMA's Map Service Center. The suite of products created to assist communities include "Recipe Cards" on pairing these data with fact sheets about the datasets and recorded tutorials. These products are available for local community official use at <http://www.riskmap6.com/Resources.aspx> under *Information for Local Officials*.

For communities that prefer a live tutorial on using these data to develop flood risk assessments and communication tools, a series of online training webinars, or "**Virtual Brown Bag**" sessions, will be made available monthly. Each Virtual Brown Bag session will focus on combining a specific flood risk dataset with local data to assess and communicate local risk. Local community GIS and technical staff are encouraged to participate in the "**Virtual Brown Bag**" sessions by registering online for the specific dates that cover the datasets they are interested in learning to use. Some of the datasets covered include: Depth Grids, Changes Since Last FIRM, Percent Annual Chance and Percent 30 Year Chance Grids, Water Surface Elevation Grids, and the Average Annualized Loss (AAL).

Sign up at <https://r6virtualbrownbag.eventbrite.com>

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 2015-2017 Leadership Team

Executive Board Members

President

Jessica Baker, PE, CFM, PMP

Half Associates, Inc.

Phone: 214-217-6692

E-mail: JBaker@half.com

Vice-President

Joe Fernandez, CFM

San Antonio River Authority

Phone: 210-302-3675

E-mail: josef@sara-tx.org

Secretary

Paloma Garcia, CFM

Denton, TX

Phone: 940-783-5098

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

Treasurer

Thomas Mountz, PE, CFM

Phone: 512-786-9564

E-mail: tmountz@gmail.com

Past President

Diane Calhoun, CFM

Calhoun Consulting, LLC

Phone: 940-600-8646

E-mail: dcalhouncfm@gmail.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, PE, 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, PE, CFM

Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., El Paso

E-mail: smhernandez@team-psc.com

Region 4

Audra Valamides, CFM

City of Arlington

E-mail: audra.valamides@arlingtontx.gov

Region 5

Kevin Shunk, PE, CFM

City of Austin

E-mail: kevin.shunk@austintexas.gov

Region 6

Robert Nolen, CFM

San Antonio River Authority

E-mail: josef@sara-tx.org

Region 7

Kyle Kingma, CFM

City of Tyler

Email: mwilson@tylertexas.com

Region 8

John A. Johnston, PE, CFM

City of Victoria

E-mail: jjohnston@victoriatx.org

Region 9

Marlen Gonzalez, CFM

McAllen, Texas

E-mail: marlen.gonzalez@mcallen.net

Region 10

Tam Vu, CFM

City of Dallas

E-mail: tam.vu@dallascityhall.com

TFMA Committee Chairs

Lane Lease, PE, CFM (Membership)

lane@rodssue.cc

Amy Ronnfeldt, PE, CFM (Certification)

Amy.Ronnfeldt@TxDOT.gov

John Espinoza, PE, CFM (Conference, Co-Chair)

espinozaja79@gmail.com

Tim Raines, PE, CFM (Conference, Co-Chair)

thraines@usgs.gov

Garry Fennell, PE, CFM (Finance)

gfennell@cityofirving.org

Robert Barker, PE, CFM (Member Services)

slrigdad@yahoo.com

Cathy Meek, CFM (Outreach)

cathy@h2opartnersusa.com

John Ivey, PE, CFM (Mentor Program)

jivey@half.com

Ray Windsor, CFM (Training, Co-Chair)

raydwindsor@gmail.com

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

curtis1@tx.rr.com

Steve Gonzales, PE, CFM (Communications)

sgonzales@vickreyinc.com

Steve Eubanks, PE, CFM (Stormwater, Co-Chair)

steven.eubanks@fortworthtexas.gov

Jill Trevino, PE, 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, PE, (Legislative Chair;

FP Mapping Standards Chair)

wbirdwell@half.com