It seems like only yesterday when TFMA was ending 2013 with some astounding numbers and a growing list of fantastic accomplishments. As we look back at the first half of 2014, TFMA again appears to be having another very successful year.

The Spring Conference in Irving was superb with over 425 participants. We certainly owe special thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors that made our conference so special and informative. For the first time, TFMA held this conference at a state-of-the-art facility and the Omni Mandalay served as the headquarters hotel. See more later in the newsletter.

An area we may need to work on is membership and CFM retention. After the 2014 membership and CFM renewals came in earlier in the year, TFMA lost ground. Due to various reasons, TFMA was forced to decertify approximately 75 CFMs and a number of previous members failed to renew. Now looking ahead to the remainder of 2014, TFMA will be ramping up numerous training opportunities from ½ day, 1-day and 4-day training courses.

Surely, there will be ample opportunities for our CFMs to gain their needed CECs. And of course, we will travel to the beautiful riverwalk in San Antonio for our Fall Technical Seminars. The Hyatt Regency San Antonio, located on the Riverwalk across from the Alamo is a premier destination and should be a fantastic host for TFMA.

Other great news is concerning our partnership with the state NFIP coordinating agency. As you know, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is responsible for the NFIP in Texas. The comprehensive water bill passed last year by the Texas Legislature called for the massive reorganization of the Agency. With new leaders and staff, TFMA and TWDB have forged a new partnership to promote and improve floodplain management and hazard mitigation in Texas.

Our new vision allows us to share resources and help each other to provide much needed training and outreach across Texas. It is the dawn of a new era of cooperation and the rewards and benefits are great! Thank you TWDB!!!

Many of you are doing great things when it comes to managing floodplain development and many of you have been actively engaged in flood safety outreach efforts. It is our goal to make this newsletter more about TFMA and to highlight our members and your successes. So please let us know when you are involved in something special to promote floodplain management and educate the public too. You may be featured in the next newsletter!

I am very excited about the prospects for TFMA during the remainder of this year. Only time will tell if we close out 2014 with another record breaking year or not. The TFMA Office and the TFMA Board of Directors are committed to make this year a success and with your help, we will get there. Thanks to all of you for your membership and support. Without you, TFMA would not be where it is today and survive. Working together we are making a difference.

God Bless! Be Weatherwise and be Safe!

Thanks,

Roy D. Sedwick, CFM
TFMA Executive Director
The Lightning Rod

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

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Cedar Park, TX 78630
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Floodwater Under the Bridge

(Each quarter, this article will be a reprint from a long ago Lightning Rod. This article is from the original, first issue dated March 1989. It is authored by Roy Sedwick and gives today’s TFMA a glimpse at how far the association has grown. Enjoy!)

TFMA – SEEKING A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

After the organizational meeting of the Texas Floodplain Management Association in May, 1988, we got an influx of members from all across the state eager to participate in a very worthwhile organization. But, events in June and July forced some changes and as a result, there was virtually no activity for TFMA during the remainder of 1988.

Now, things are back on track and we are looking forward to a very productive year. Membership certificates have been mailed, the newsletter is on schedule and we have several exciting conferences planned. With your input and our combined efforts, we will have a unique opportunity to improve the quality of floodplain management in Texas.

One thing is missing – YOU! There are over 1200 designated floodplain managers as well as a like number of emergency management coordinators in Texas. To date, we have 122 members but we need more support to make TFMA the strongest state floodplain association in the country. How about it? Don’t you want to add your name to the list if TFMA members?

Deadline for The Lightning Rod Fall Issue is August 8, 2014.

Congratulations to the City of Plano for being recognized as a CRS 5.

(Left to right: Jack Carr, PE - City of Plano Director of Engineering, TFMA Vice President Jessica Baker, PE, CFM, PMP, and Harry LaRosiliere - City of Plano Mayor)

TFMA President Diane Calhoun, CFM presents a plaque of appreciation to Frank Pagano, who retired after serving a total of 36 years in the government sector of which 26 years was in FEMA, Region VI. Congratulations Frank!
Jodie Kelly, a native North Dakotan, has been since 1984. After graduating from the University of North Dakota, she moved to Texas looking for work and has been here ever since! Jodie has been with the City of Brownwood for 18 years. One of her first duties was to rewrite the subdivision ordinance and get the GIS up and running. With a Bachelor of Science in Geological Engineering with an emphasis on soils and hydrology, floodplains was a natural fit. In 1990, the Kelly family moved to Brownwood and then in 1991, the city had two big floods, sparking an interest in floods and flooding for Jodie.

When asked about something out of the ordinary in her job, Jodie said, “I do think it strange people have this idea the base flood elevation is the same anywhere in town. Trying to educate the public that every lot is “site specific” when it comes to flood levels can be a challenge. Builders can get confused when they have to build a house higher than the neighboring homes. Education is key and on-going.”

Brownwood, a small town of approximately 20,000 residents, has a 3A high school and a small private Baptist University (Howard Payne University) of 2,000 students. It also has five creeks running through it so floodplains are plentiful.

Jodie and her husband moved to Brownwood when their girls were one and two. She got tired of leaving them in daycare for 11 hours a day, so she stayed home with the girls until they were school age. After they went to school, Jodie started working for the city part-time initially.

Jodie has been married to Fred Kelly for 28 years. Their two girls are Michelle, 25 and Kari, 24. Michelle is a Texas A&M graduate in Biomedical Engineering and is getting her MBA in healthcare in Denver. Kari, also a Texas A&M graduate, has a degree in Geology. She and her husband live in the Houston area and are working for an environmental company. They have one son, making Jodie and Fred very proud grandparents!

Stay tuned for training opportunities in Region 2.
At the State Capitol
By: Wes Birdwell, P.E.
TFMA Legislative Committee Chair

A big round of applause for the Texas Water Development Board Texas Natural Resources Information System! They have produced a comprehensive state-wide floodplain mapping needs plan. The “State of Texas 5 Year Risk MAP Business Plan, Texas Water Development Board 2014-2018” was submitted to Region VI on March 31, 2014. The purpose of the plan is to “support the FEMA Region VI funding allocations for the national Risk, Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) Program. The purpose of Risk MAP is continued improvement of flood hazard information for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); the promotion of increase national awareness and understanding of flood risk; the support and promotion of long-term mitigation actions at Federal, State, and local, levels that reduce risk.”

Even though Texas annually leads the nation in flood damage, we fall far behind in keeping our mapping information current so that our hard working communities can more effectively work to reduce future damages. The chart shows that several communities don’t have any maps, many more are still using the old paper maps, and less than half have current digital information. We have some ground to cover!

Under FEMA’s Risk MAP program, communities can apply to become a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) and can secure 75% federal matching funds to update their flood maps. Many of the larger cities and districts, such as those shown here operate as CTP’s. Unfortunately, many smaller communities do not have full time engineering staff and cannot qualify as a CTP. Communities on the Texas Colorado River have formed the Texas Colorado River Floodplain Coalition which has partnered with the TWDB to secure federal funds. Communities in the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) also have the same opportunity. TWDB/TNRIS desires to extend this partnership opportunity to every Texas community.

The primary goals of the plan are:
1. Annually assess data available throughout Texas to support accurate flood risk identification studies and flood risk communication efforts. Share date with communities and other stakeholders for use throughout the state.
2. Collect flood risk needs from committee and stakeholder throughout Texas regularly. Serve as a technical resource and state clearinghouse for Texas communities.
3. Annually prioritize Texas watersheds and identify Risk MAP candidate projects for funding by FEMA.
5. Annually update the plan. Coordinate all current and proposed Risk MAP projects throughout Texas by developing strong relationships with existing Local/Regional CTP’s, state agencies, and with FEMA Region VI so that the Texas 5 Year Risk MAP Business Plan is a comprehensive assessment of ongoing flood risk reduction efforts.

The plan summarizes the ongoing FEMA remapping activities this year and paves the way for an increased remapping activity in the future by offering to be the state coordinator for mapping activities. It is available for your review on TWDB’s web site. Thank you TWDB!!!
Congratulations to TFMA Region 6 Director Joe Fernandez with San Antonio River Authority (SARA) on a successful Inaugural South Central Seminar and Luncheon held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio over June 12.

Inspired by the TFMA North Texas Local Area Event by Regions 4 and 10 in the DFW area, your Region Director saw a need to offer a training opportunity in his area and decided it was time to create something similar in the South/Central area of Texas. Event coordinators included TFMA, SARA, the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. Over 125 people attended the luncheon. Presenting an update on BW12 was Jon Rikard with Wright Flood which highlighted the changes in the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act, followed by TFMA Vice President Jessica Baker, PE, CFM, PMP who presented “Floodplain Manager Digital Toolkit - Unlocking the Hidden Potential of Floodplain Data” and finally Lynn Lovell, PE, CFM presented a lecture entitled “Floodways: Do We Really Need Them?” which included technical as well as regulatory and legal issues relative to the FEMA Floodway Concept.

Attendees were able to obtain 3.0 CECs by attending. This event promises to become an annual event. Many thanks to the following companies for providing support:

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NEWS FLASH

After 21 years with FEMA, Glen Beard, Natural Hazards Program Specialist with FEMA Region VI announced his retirement. He made his announcement during the FEMA/STATE CAP Meeting In Denton, Texas on May 21, 2014. Prior to joining FEMA in 1992, Glen spent 3 years in the U.S. Army (1966-1969), 17 years in the US Air Force and 2 years (1990-1992) with GSA.

In the past few years. Glen was the “Go to Instructor” for FEMA’s Substantial Damage Estimator Course (SDE), especially after major flood disasters hit Texas. Glen was presented a plaque recognizing his service to FEMA at the CAP meeting followed by sharing a beautiful retirement cake with staff and CAP friends.

Glen, we wish you the best in your retirement. You will be missed. And Thank You for your years of military service to our Country. God Bless All of our veterans!

(Left to right: Ross Richardson, CFM, Glen Beard and Roy Sedwick, CFM)
Congratulations to our newest CFMs

After not passing the CFM Exam the first time, a TFMA member is quoted as saying, “I am not going to let this exam beat me! I am going to pass!” And pass they did! Congratulations to each of you.

Jessica Alford, City of Corpus Christi
Patrick Baugh, City of Royse City
Cedric Balozian, Houston
Elisa Beas, City of Rio Grande
Mario Beddingfield, USACE, Galveston
Erald Belaj, City of Marble Falls
Jake Bennett, Brown and Gay, Frisco
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TFMA Career Center - A Resourceful Tool

Looking for a new job opportunity? Are you currently unemployed? Are you a newly certified CFM? Then you need to visit the TFMA Career Center at http://www.tfma.org/. The TFMA Executive Office receives numerous requests to post openings weekly. Simply log in and click on the tab entitled Career Center and do a simple search in any category and all job descriptions and how to apply are right at your finger tips. This is a great resource and Member Only Benefit.

Go visit the Career Center today. You just never know what opportunity awaits you!
Meet Your Director - Michael Wilson, P.E., CFM, Region 7 Director

Michael started his career in the floodplain arena back in his high school days. Back then he loved drafting and took every course available. It was his greatest desire to be a draftsman. After graduating, the college he chose did not have a degree in drafting so he switched directions just slightly. He enrolled in architectural technology, then industrial technology and finally civil engineering technology before dropping out after three semesters due to lack of focus and interest. Working for a few years, Michael decided to give college another try. He received his first job as a draftsman in 1986 and graduated with a BSCE in 1991 and has been working in the public and private fields ever since. His career as a civil engineer, which includes hydrology and hydraulics, involved all things floodplain.

During the time when Michael dropped out of school, he met his wife Sarah. Michael says Sarah is one of the best things in his life! They have been married 28 years and both have very full and productive schedules. She is a Director for HerbMart, a health food and supplements retail chain with various locations in Dallas, Mesquite and Plano. The other best thing in their lives is their daughter Christine, who is completing her final semester at UT Tyler. She will graduate in May with a math major and business minor. Recently Christine has taken a keen interest in civil engineering and has plans to apply for graduate school in the field.

When asked about a “typical day” at the office, Michael says it is really an anomaly. However, a typical day involves everything related to private development in the City of Tyler including floodplain questions and management. He supervises the building inspections division as well as engineering plan review related to private development.

Michael’s office receives many calls with questions similar to “When did the city place my property in the flood zone?” or “I have lived here 40 years and it has never flooded.” but the best one, “They called the flood we got last year a 100-year flood so we won’t see it again for 99 years.”

“Recently we have been dealing with one builder that seems to be drawn to building on lots that are in the floodplain. I suspect they are ‘bargain’ prices. He does not seem to understand that building on fill and elevating the house are not necessarily the same thing.”

Michael plans to do whatever he can to promote floodplain management in Region 7 and assist other Directors when and where possible. He plans to host training sessions within the district and provide instruction as well.

So keep your eyes on the training calendar Region 7!

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Understanding the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act—Online Workshops through FEMA Region 6

Local understanding the impact of changes to the NFIP make it imperative that FEMA communicates through targeted outreach to increase awareness and encourage mitigation practices and higher standards to reduce risk.

In 2014, the U.S. Congress passed the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (HFIAA). This law repeals and modifies certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act, which was enacted in 2012.

To help our State and Local partners, local Floodplain Administrators, and State Floodplain Management Association members better understand this Act and how it will affect their communities, FEMA Region 6 is offering on-line events using Adobe Connect on July 8 and 10. Register to attend one of these sessions at [http://hfiaaupdatefpa.eventbrite.com](http://hfiaaupdatefpa.eventbrite.com) and select the date you want to attend. Registration is limited, so please sign up early.

Additional webinars are being scheduled for stakeholders on July 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, and 31. More information on the stakeholder sessions is available at: [www.RiskMAP6.com](http://www.RiskMAP6.com).

Your communities view you as an important resource to accurately explain their changing flood risks. Become better prepared when your citizens call.

TFMA hosted another outstanding conference at the convention center in Irving, Texas. Over 425 floodplain managers from city, county, state and private entities gathered from all over the state to hear great technical speakers, eat fabulous food, visit with over 25 exhibiting companies and network with other floodplain managers. This conference was unique in that this was the first TFMA Annual Conference held in two locations – the beautiful Omni Mandalay and the Irving Convention Center. Thanks to everyone who attended for “going with the flow” and helping make this a great conference.

Highlights of the conference included the Opening Plenary Session on Wednesday afternoon with the inaugural Mike Howard Lectureship. Dr. Sam Brody was the first guest lecturer in what will become a part of each Spring conference honoring Mike Howard and his passion for ensuring flood safety. Dr. Brody spoke about the need for more integrated and protective state-wide approaches to flood mitigation that more effectively reduced adverse impacts in the future.

On Wednesday evening, attendees headed back to the Omni Mandalay for the Annual Evening Banquet. Members were treated to a delicious dinner buffet consisting of tender Pork Tenderloin, Roasted Rosemary Chicken, and a succulent flank steak tenderloin with all the fixings. Members also witnessed the much awaited reunion of the “Flood Brothers” band. Members of the band were Wes Birdwell (Bass guitar), Mickey Reynolds (Rhythm Guitar), Mark Ramsey (Drums & Keyboard), Shauna LaFrance, CFM (Singer) and Barry Bynum (Lead Guitar).

TFMA also spruced up the exhibit hall with over 25 exhibitors displaying all kinds of products and services. Members enjoyed refreshments and networking in the TFMA Café centered in the exhibit hall each morning with breakfast and breaks. The highly anticipated 2nd Annual Silent Auction was also a huge success with over 70 items contributed. On Thursday, attendees participated in various concurrent sessions and then broke for the annual Membership and Awards Luncheon where members anxiously awaited the announcement of the winners of the various TFMA awards.

The conference ended on Friday with the closing Plenary Session. While the 2015 TFMA Annual Spring Conference dates have not been set, keep an eye out on the TFMA website for updates. Date and place will be determined over these next couple of months.
2014 TFMA Annual Spring Conference Award Winners

At the 2014 TFMA Membership and Awards Luncheon held at the Irving Convention Center during the TFMA Annual Spring Conference on Thursday, TFMA’s top honors were announced. Congratulations to all the winners!

Agency of the Year Award: 
**Gilbert Ward, TWDB**

*Flood Protection Planning Grant*

Floodplain Manager of the Year Award: 
**Kevin Shunk, PE, CFM, City of Austin**

City Floodplain Management Excellence Award: 
**City of Round Rock**

Corporate Sponsor of the Year: 
**Freese and Nichols**

Special Recognition Award: 
**Jeff Lindner, Harris County Flood Control District**

*(will be presented at the Fall Technical Seminars in September in San Antonio)*

Roy Sedwick Award: 
**Jessica Baker, PE, CFM, PMP**
TFMA thanks all of the following companies for providing sponsorship support to the TFMA Annual Spring Conference:

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Many thanks for your support!
Many thanks to the following companies who exhibited at the Annual Spring Conference in Irving:

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Many thanks to the following companies who exhibited at the Annual Spring Conference in Irving:

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Hilton Hill Country Resort & Spa
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TFMA’s 2014 2nd Annual Silent Auction Contributors:

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Marriott Champions Circle, Ft. Worth
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Omni Houston Galleria
Omni Corpus Christi
Plano CVB
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Sheraton Hotel & Spa, Fort Worth
Sheraton Brookhollow, Houston
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The Fairmont Hotel, Dallas
The Magnolia Hotel, Houston
The Menger Hotel, San Antonio
The San Luis Hotel & Spa, Galveston
The Westin Park Central, Dallas
The Westin @the Domain, Austin

Thanks to all the attendees who participated in the Auction.

YOU raised over $5,500 which benefitted TFMA’s Outreach Programs. Great job!

And thanks to all the contributors!
TFMA Outreach - TADD and TexAnna Tadpole

TFMA continues it’s mission to educate the public about the dangers of flooding especially through the use of the Stormwater Model - a great visual tool for children.

“The coloring books and TFMA goodie bags were a great hit!!! The kids loved them, thank you.”

“My son is four years old. I picked him up from school and he told me the policeman and fireman came to visit. He then informed me that if there is water on a bridge to turn around and don’t drive over it. That was so cool and made me smile. So the message is getting out even to our little ones.”

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

www.ljaengineering.com    713.953.5200
Exciting Training Opportunities for TFMA in 2014! Listed below are the projected 4-day classes. Some of the dates are not yet solid so check the calendar on the TFMA website for late breaking information!

**July 15 - Llano**  
Floodplain Management 101 One Day Training

**August 4-7, 2014 - Houston**  
(more information to follow on the TFMA website)  
4-Day Advanced Course 201  
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM each day  
Harris County Public Infrastructure  
10555 Northwest Freeway  
(All course materials will be provided electronically. It will be the responsibility of each attendee to print and bind the materials)

**August 2014 - Austin**  
TWDB/FEMA NFIP 101 4-Day w/CFM Opportunity

**November/December 2014 - Arlington**  
NCTCOG/TWDB/FEMA 4-Day Course w/CFM Opportunity

Training will also be provided at the **Fall Technical Seminars in San Antonio September 3-5, 2014**. More one day classes will be popping up in your Region. Keep checking the website and don’t miss out on gaining your CECs for renewal EARLY!

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**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 2014. Advertise in the Summer issue 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](http://www.tfma.org/?page=Newsletter)
Join over 350-plus floodplain managers, administrators, engineers, stormwater managers and others at this seminar filled with some common issues you face in your day to day activities. This seminar has been planned to cover some of the hottest topics in floodplain management and more.

**Headquarters Hotel:**
**Hyatt Regency San Antonio on the Riverwalk**

Nestled right in the heart of the San Antonio Riverwalk, the Hyatt Regency San Antonio will serve as the headquarters hotel for TFMA this September. Located across from the Alamo and just steps from dining and entertainment, the Hyatt Regency is the place to be. **TFMA has negotiated a spectacular group rate of only $115 single/double occupancy.** This room block will sell out fast at this rate, so make your reservations now or before August 12, 2014 or the room block may be sold out. Make your reservations online: [https://resweb.passkey.com/go/txfloodplainmgmtassn](https://resweb.passkey.com/go/txfloodplainmgmtassn)

Or call the Hyatt at 1-888-421-1442 and tell reservations you are with the TFMA Annual Fall Conference to get the special group rate.


Click [here to download a brochure](http://www.tfma.org/events/event_details.asp?id=451055).

*Don’t miss out! Register today.*
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