

THE LIGHTNING ROD



The Official Newsletter of the Texas Floodplain Management Association

As Americans get ready to celebrate the Nation's birthday this 4th of July, TFMA is presenting you this special edition of *The Lightning Rod*. This edition is filled with information on what TFMA has accomplished throughout 2017 thus far. We hope you enjoy catching up with TFMA during this 4th of July as you spend time with your families and friends celebrating America's Independence and saluting those that gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy today.

To all the TFMA members who served in the armed forces and continue to do so today, we SALUTE YOU!

God bless you, TFMA, and God bless America!

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- ◆ 85th Legislative Session
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ASFPM National Conference Update



San Antonio River Authority Wins CTP Recognition Award

In February, FEMA officially launched the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Recognition Program whose purpose is to collaborate in maintaining up-to-date flood hazard maps and other flood hazard information.

With over 20,000 communities in the [National Flood Insurance Program](#) (NFIP), there is a significant challenge keeping flood hazard maps current. The CTP Program is an innovative approach to creating partnerships between FEMA and participating NFIP communities, regional agencies, state agencies, tribes and universities that have the interest and capability to become more active participants in the FEMA flood hazard mapping program.

For this inaugural year, FEMA asked CTP stakeholders to nominate CTPs who demonstrate program proficiency and best practices in management, technology, innovation, mapping, and/or communications outreach. After a three-week period for open nominations, CTP CoP stakeholders nominated seven CTPs from six FEMA Regions. After nominations and voting took place, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) came out ahead.

TFMA President Joe Fernandez, CFM accepts the CTP Recognition Award on behalf of SARA at the ASFPM National Conference in Kansas City in April.

Congratulations SARA on a job well done!

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TFMA Secretary - Kelly Dillard, PE, CFM, EnvSP

Kelly Dillard, P.E., CFM, EnvSP is a firm Principal/Vice President and is Practice Leader for Stormwater Services at Freese and Nichols. She has technical and management oversight of the firm's 30-person Stormwater Management Group in North Texas and supports the 50+ Stormwater professionals across the company.

Ms. Dillard's career has been focused on comprehensive municipal Stormwater management, from policy development and development review services to planning studies, CIP development and drainage design projects. She has extensive experience working with communities throughout Texas in defining, implementing, regulating and funding municipal Stormwater management programs. Kelly is a Certified Floodplain Manager, an ISI Envision Sustainability Professional and Chair of the Freese and Nichols Sustainability Committee.



TFMA Treasurer - Stephanie W. Griffin, PE, CFM

I am a native Texan who grew up in the Houston area and graduated from Taylor High School in Katy, TX. My parents told me I could attend any State school within Texas. To this day, my mom is convinced that I looked at a map, pointed at Houston, and looked to see how far away from home I could get...Lubbock! Actually, I chose Texas Tech because of its engineering college. I had wanted to be an engineer since the 8th grade! I squeezed a four year engineering undergraduate program into five years at Tech. I went straight into graduate school at Texas A&M and obtained my Master's degree in Civil Engineering the following year.

I began my professional career at Freese and Nichols, Inc. where I worked for 16 years in multiple departments where I was able to expand my knowledge and experience – long-range water supply planning, program management, stormwater planning, etc. While managing a voluntary buyout project for a local City, I discovered that I enjoyed working with the public and helping people get to a safer place. I took a leap of faith and moved to the public side of the business. I have been with the City of Grand Prairie for three years as the Stormwater Utility Manager and Floodplain Administrator.

I had been with the City for less than a year when the May/June 2015 floods hit. Some folks say the City didn't flood until I arrived. I say that my presence at the City ended the drought!

I met my husband Frank at Tech and we have been married for 19 years. (He is still in denial about the year I lived in College Station before we got married.) We have two children, Regan (15) and Reid (12), who keep us on our toes and constantly on the go. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, cheering on my kids at their extracurricular events, running, shopping, and scrapbooking.



Clair Davis, PE, CFM - Region 4 Director

I am a graduate of the Tarleton State University Hydrology & Water Resources program, licensed as a Civil Engineer with water resources emphasis, and have been a Certified Floodplain Manager since 1998. I am the Floodplain Administrator for the City of Fort Worth, and have worked in floodplain management for Fort Worth since 2002. I have also worked for the City of Grand Prairie as Assistant Floodplain Administrator, and for a consulting engineering firm as a land development hydrologist on large residential and commercial projects.

For over 20 years, the focus of my career has been on flood risk reduction, and TFMA has helped me to develop as a professional by providing training and mentoring opportunities with other floodplain managers. This is my opportunity to give back to TFMA. I have worked in roles ranging from a land development hydrologist to the Floodplain Administrator for a city of over 800,000 residents. However, having lived in rural Erath County while attending Tarleton, I also have a strong appreciation for the challenges facing small towns and counties as they work to reduce flood risks.

When I worked for the City of Grand Prairie, I learned the value of participating in the Community Rating System (CRS), and helped to establish Grand Prairie as one of the first Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) cities in the state. I brought both of those programs to Fort Worth because they are key to reducing flood risks through higher regulatory standards and better risk information, and assist smaller communities wherever possible.

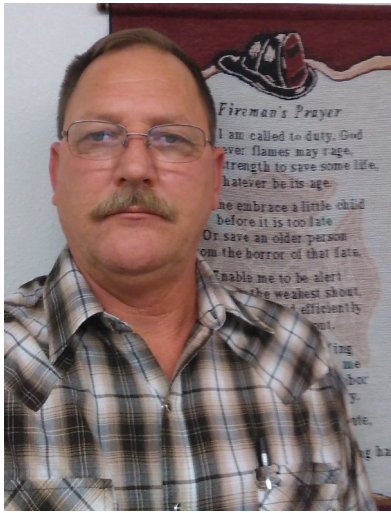
Jameson Courtney, CFM - Region 5 Director

Jameson Courtney is a lifelong Austinite who grew up in the Williamson Creek watershed in Southwest Austin. He attended the University of Texas at Austin earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physical Geography. While at the university, Jameson lived in both the Shoal Creek watershed and the Waller Creek watershed and wrote an honors thesis on urbanization's impact on channel morphology and stability in the Little Walnut Creek watershed in Austin, Texas.



During this time he also worked as a research assistant at the university on a project monitoring erosion on the San Marcos River. After college, Jameson worked for First American Flood Data Services performing QA/QC on preliminary DFIRMs as part of FEMA's MapMod program. While at First American, he joined TFMA and became a CFM. In 2008 Jameson began working for the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department as one of the City's floodplain managers reviewing new development, crafting policy and regulations and working on flood safety outreach. He is also the City of Austin's CRS coordinator and reviews statewide legislation both as part of TFMA's governmental relation committee and the Watershed Protection Departments legislative review committee.

Jameson currently resides in the Johnson Creek watershed and in his spare time enjoys making pottery and cooking.



Douglas Nicholson, CFM - Region 7 Director

Doug is the Road/Flood Plain Administrator for Smith County Texas. His responsibilities are overseeing the operations of the Road department & the enforcement of Flood Plain activity. He also reviews platting documents for Smith County as a part of the many hats he wears. He has held this position since August 2008. He was appointed as the assistant Flood Plain administrator in 2000. Prior to 2000 Doug worked in the field for Smith County building roads and bridges from 1993 to 2000. He strives to make the public more aware of the dangers of Flooding and other dangers that nature may throw at them.

He is also involved in Flood Plain issues through the Fire Service where he has volunteered for 40 years. Doug is not only an active member of TFMA, he also a member of the Texas Association of County Engineers and Road

Administrators.

Doug is a father of four and a grandfather of five. He enjoys fishing, hunting and just being out with communing with nature.

Angela S. Batiz, PE, CFM - Region 8 Director

Specializing in hydrologic and hydraulic design and analysis, Angela has over 20 years of civil engineering experience. As a senior project manager at LJA Engineering, Inc, Angela is responsible for overseeing H&H staff working on projects in Houston Area neighborhoods, across the state, and internationally. She has produced drainage studies for master planned communities, including the design of storm water detention and collection systems, and drainage channels.

Further, she is an expert in acquiring FEMA Letters of Map Change allowing for more area to be developed and keeping homes safe from flooding. She has been involved in watershed and drainage studies of major waterways.

Angela is invested in her community and as the Region 8 Director of the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA), she will work closely with FEMA and the Texas Water Development Board assisting TFMA with the promotion of the Certified Floodplain Manager Program and the education of Flood Plain Management professionals.



Martha Viada, E.I.T., CFM - Region 9 Director

Martha is currently the Assistant City Engineer for the City of Harlingen, where she works with the Public Works/Engineering Department. She holds a B.S. and M.S. degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas - Pan American. Martha is currently an engineer-in-training and hopes soon to be a registered professional engineer with the State of Texas.

Martha has over 14 years experience in the civil engineering profession specializing in subdivisions, commercial development, and project management of capital improvement projects for the city. Martha has been a Certified Floodplain Manager since 2011 and assists the City Engineer with management of floodplains, addressing citizen concerns about flood zones and elevation certificates, and providing information to the general public about flood maps.

When she is not working, Martha is also mom to two very energetic girls, Layla (6) and Lola (1) and wife to a wonderfully supportive husband, David.



Kimberly Dewailly, PE, CFM Region 10 Director

Kimberly Dewailly graduated from Texas A&M University with both a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree. After college, she worked in the water resources engineering consulting field for 9 years before beginning her current position with the City of Dallas Trinity Watershed Management department.

She has two amazing little boys, she loves to travel and see new things, and also loves pictures of anything and everything.



TFMA and Flood Awareness Week - May 22, 26, 2017

Governor Greg Abbott declared the week of May 22-26, 2017 as *Flood Awareness Week*. Did you wear your blue? These folks did!



2017 TFMA Fall Technical Summit

The 2017 Fall Technical Summit is coming up August 29 - September 1, 2017. Have you registered yet? Pre-Registration continues **through August 18**. What do we have planned? **Well, take a peek:**

Tuesday, August 29

Early Bird Workshops (optional)

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Wk#1: Floodplain Management 101 (6 CECs)
(open to NON-CFMs ONLY)

Wk#2: NFIP 201 (6 CECs)

Wk#3: Intro to HEC-RAS 2D Modeling (6 CECs)

6:00 pm - 9:00 PM

CFM Exam (see requirements on previous page)

Wednesday, August 30

Early Bird Workshops (optional)

8:00 am - Noon (approx. 3.5 CEC hours)

Wk#4: Common Non-Compliance Issues

Wk#5: Reviewing HEC-RAS 2D Models

Wk#6: Letter of Map Change for Community Officials

Wk#7: Field Trip - San Antonio River Improvement Project - Mission Reach (Limited to 50 people. A Stagecoach will be provided)

END OF WORKSHOP REGISTRATION - FULL CONFERENCE BEGINS AFTER LUNCH

NOON - Lunch on your Own

1:30 - 5:30 PM FULL CONFERENCE BEGINS

Concurrent Sessions - Part I

1:30 pm - 5:30 pm
(3.5 CEC hours)

5:30 pm
Adjourn for the day

Thursday, August 31

8:00 am - Noon

Opening Plenary Session
(3.5 CEC hours)

Noon - 1:30 pm

TFMA Membership Luncheon

1:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions - Part II
(3.5 CEC hours)

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

An Evening at the TFMA “Hoedown”
After a long day of sessions, come relax at the TFMA Ranch. We’ll have plenty of food, entertainment, and a surprise or two. Oh, don’t forget your boots!

Friday, September 1

8:00 am - Noon

(3.5 CEC hours)

Closing Plenary Session

The best for the last!

Noon

Adjourn



So, what are you waiting for?

REGISTER TODAY and get ALL your CECs at this conference.

Go to www.tfma.org or [click here](#) to register BEFORE July 24 to get the pre-registration pricing.

TFMA Governmental Relations Update

By: Wes Birdwell, PE, TFMA Governmental Relations Chair

About fifteen years ago, TFMA took on an almost impossible task. We determined to help improve Texas' National Flood Insurance Program. When Texas' NFIP began back in the 70's, it was well staffed and funded. But, by the year 2000, it had dwindled down to one and one-half people, and no budget. This was hardly adequate to support 1300 local programs and work with FEMA Region VI.

Working hard, TFMA was able to get SB1436 passed in 2007. This bill moved the state NFIP to TWDB and directed \$3.05M in revenue from the state tax on National Flood Insurance policies to a flood fund every year. The flood fund could be accessed by TWDB's flood programs. We thought our job was done, and relaxed. But, over the next few years, Texas' economy went into a slump. The annual flow of cash to the flood fund stopped. AND, Texas went into a drought. No one wants to talk about floods during a historical drought. But, in 2013, two important things happened. First, TWDB was reorganized, and the new leadership showed renewed interest in its flood programs. Secondly, the floods returned to Texas. And did they ever. By early 2016, Texas' flood damages, beginning in 2015, were approaching half a billion dollars.

TWDB's biennial budget is approved early every odd numbered year, during each legislative session. Since state agencies can't lobby the legislature for funding, TFMA needed to work closely with TWDB as well as develop relationships with several key Texas senators and representatives. It was very important that we begin months before the next session began. After the 2015 Memorial Day flood in Wimberley the Governor had provided TWDB with \$6.8M in emergency funding, for 2016-2017. But that was a one-time thing. Going into the 2017 Legislature, TWDB's flood budget was \$0.00.

So, TFMA's Executive Team went to work. TFMA's then President Jessica Baker worked with the TFMA Board to develop a plan, and called it Texas FloodED. Jessica presented FloodED to the TFMA membership at the Spring 2016 conference. The response was nearly overwhelming. Many of you immediately volunteered your time to help. That was huge.

In the fall of 2016, TWDB was asked to slash its base budget by 4%. They complied, but then asked for \$12.4M in their supplementary budget, which is called "exceptional items." Our job was to support their exceptional items request. We needed to get the legislature to put this money in TWDB's base budget. **And boy, did TFMA ever respond.** Before the opening bell on January 10, 2017, TFMA FloodED volunteers had visited over 50 legislators during the summer of 2016. Local TFMA teams of flood experts had met with legislators in their home offices. Each team had "talking points" that introduced TFMA (many legislators had never even heard about us!), informed them about Texas' flood problems (many of them even had their own flood stories!), and told them about TWDB's exceptional items budget request. Starting early gave us the head start we needed.

Then, on February 21, 2017, all of our work culminated with TFMA's first ever *Day at the Capitol*. Again, TFMA FloodED members stepped up. Forty volunteers came to Austin and worked all day. **And I mean worked.** We visited every legislative office (there are 181!) in the Capitol in a span of a few hours, updating our message and answering their questions.

Then we had to wait. It wasn't until after the session ended, late in May, that we were able to confirm that the Legislature approved \$7.9M for the flood programs at TWDB!! TWDB's flood budget went from zero dollars to \$7,900,000.00 in a very tough fiscal environment!! And, the money is in TWDB's base budget! Yea TWDB! And way to go TFMA!!

But the job isn't done. There are some things that we need to stay focused on. We know, better than anyone, that Texas drought/flood cycle will continue. Most importantly, we must support TWDB as they continue the good work they are doing, working with our communities and FEMA. Many of our communities have very serious flooding issues. If Texas is going to double in population over the next twenty or so years, we know our flooding problems will increase unless we do better in the future than we have done in the past.

We must develop a statewide flood plan, and we must be diligent. We must continue meeting with our legislators, TWDB, and working in our communities. Working together, we must learn how to flood-proof Texas! Stay tuned.....

(Writer's note: I'm probably not supposed to do this, but Selina in TFMA's office worked tirelessly over the last year....my thanks to her, to Markie who listens to me whine, to Roy, Jessica, incoming president Joe Fernandez, the Executive Team, the Board, and all of you!!)



L to R: Wes Birdwell, PE, TFMA Govt. Relations Chair, Selina Mirza, TFMA Project Manager and Rep. John Zerwas, MD, Chair, House Appropriations.

Texas FloodED

TFMA's Day @ the Capitol - February 21, 2017

TFMA held it's first ever Day @the Capitol on February 21 during the 85th Legislative Session. The event was a huge success with 40 TFMA members coming to Austin for an entire day of visiting all 181 legislative offices.



29th Annual TFMA Spring Conference

The 29th Annual TFMA Spring Conference drew over 500 members from all over Texas to the Dallas area in Richardson. Below is a glimpse of what you missed. The 30th Annual TFMA Spring Conference is coming up March 6-9, 2018 at the beautiful Horseshoe Bay. How will YOU celebrate?



29th Annual TFMA Spring Conference Sponsors & Exhibitors

Many thanks to all our sponsors and exhibitors for making the 29th Annual TFMA Spring Conference such a success. Please thank them for their support.



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Congratulations to our Newest CFMs

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 members.

Saifuddin Ahmed – City of Fort Worth
Rifat Alam - AECOM
Brian Allen – Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.
Godwin Davidson - FEMA
Jennifer Davidson – City of Lubbock
KanDee Davis - FEMA
Rebekah de la Fuente – City of Weslaco
Jason Diamond - Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.
Brian Downing – Halff Associates, Inc.
Sean Eglinton – Fort Bend County
Joel Escobar – Jones & Carter
Gary Ferguson - FEMA
Jorge Gallosa – Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Adrian Garcia - Fair Oaks Ranch
Jenna Gardner – Dannenbaum Engineering
Michael Garske - USACE
Graciela Garza - FEMA
Joshua Garza – City of Port Isabel
Joseph Goessling - K Friese + Associates
Craig Gonzalez - Urban Infrastructure Group, Inc.
Wylie Gorup – Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Coleman Green – Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.
Douglas Guinn – Dannenbaum Engineering
David N. Haby – City of Kemah
Kaela Hale - Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.
Nancy Hayes – CSA Design Group, Inc.
Huy “Billy” Ho – City of Sachse
Yi Hou – CDM Smith, Inc.
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Wayne Karstadt – Waller County
Michael Kauffman - USACE
David Koberlein – Burgess & Nple
Don Leifheit - FEMA
David Licon, Jr. – City of Brownsville
Coraggio Maglio - USACE
Cesar Maittre - FEMA
Javier Martinez, Jr. - TxDOT
Mio Matsumura – O’Brien Engineering, Inc.
Kori McKenzie – Dewberry Consultants, Inc.
Shannon McMillan – City of San Angelo
Joel Mesa - Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.
Michael Justin Miller - Statoil
Hasin Munna –Dannenbaum Engineering
Quang Nguyen –City of Commerce City
Erika Nordstrom – Westra Consultants, LLC
Ryan Oxenreiter - Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.
Elizabeth Palasota - Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.



WANTED:

30th Annual Spring Conference LOGO DESIGN

TFMA is celebrating its 30th birthday in 2018 and we want you to be a part of it. Before we begin the year, we need a logo to commemorate 30 years of TFMA. Here’s the scoop:

- ◆ Only (1) entry allowed per person.
- ◆ Individual must be a member of TFMA.
- ◆ Design must incorporate the TFMA logo within.
- ◆ Design must be camera ready preferably as a .jpeg or high resolution PDF.
- ◆ Full color logo.
- ◆ Submit by August 11, 2017 via email to: TFMA@tfma.org.

Winner will be announced at the 2017 Fall Technical Summit.

What does the winning design get?

- ◆ (2) Nights at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort in 2017 OR 2018.
- ◆ Travel reimbursement (mileage to/from San Antonio or airfare for the one winner, whichever is less)
- ◆ The 2017 Fall Summit Registration fee waived or the 2018 Fall Summit Registration fee waived.

If you need any help submitting your logo or have questions, call us at 512-260-1366 or email us at TFMA@tfma.org.

Texas Floodplain Management Association

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