



THE LIGHTNING ROD

Fall 2016

The Official Newsletter of the Texas Floodplain Management Association

Volume 21, Issue 3

From the Desk of the Executive Director

There comes a time in our lives when we pause to ask some potentially life altering questions. Who am I? Why am I here? What have I done? Where do I go from here? When will I make changes? If a person is lucky enough to find true, honest answers to these questions, the door to more opportunities will open and there may be many more paths to explore and good to accomplish.



The same can be said for the TFMA family. So let's ask the same questions with "we" being TFMA. Who are we? Why are we here? What have we done? Where do we go from here? When will we make changes? To find answers to these important questions, the TFMA Board came together on a Saturday back in July to hammer out a new TFMA 5-year Strategic Plan. While the plan is still being "tweaked," I still want to share some of the important aspects of what will guide TFMA into the future.

First and foremost, the Plan strives to emphasize the TFMA Vision, Mission and our Core Values. Our Vision is simple and strait forward – "Working Together WE CAN Make a Difference." TFMA cannot go it alone, we must all work together if we have any hope of making a difference, in people's lives and the life of our communities. Our Mission is also simple and to the point – "Save Life and Property from Flooding and other Natural Disasters."

In the Plan, TFMA Core Values are broken down into three categories, Stewardship, Integrity, and Excellence. Under Stewardship, TFMA exercises care in managing the association funds and resources entrusted to us. We care for our members, we care for our communities and we care for the public. Under "Integrity," we strive to be honest, ethical and reliable. TFMA is accountable to and values the trust and confidence of our members and the communities we serve. We strive to earn and maintain the trust and support of our valued members. And we strive to be transparent and above board on all TFMA actions and objectives.

Under "Excellence," TFMA is committed to innovative, collaborative, adaptive and strategic actions that result in flood awareness and preparedness. We provide responsive service, leverage our experience and strive to advance our knowledge skills and capabilities necessary to achieve our Mission.

The second portion of the Strategic Plan deals with "Association Goals and Annual Objectives." The Goals and Objectives are broken down into five basic categories. Training, Membership/Certification, Conferences, Funding/Financial Reserves, and Outreach. Under "Membership/Certification," TFMA is committed to serving the varied needs of our membership and to provide quality and timely service and communication. We are committed to retention of current members/CFMs and we will strive for at least a 10% annual increase in our membership and our CFMs.

We will strive for a balanced membership structure between local floodplain managers, agency members and corporate members. We will enhance and promote the professional status of the trained local floodplain manager and encourage participation in the Certified Floodplain Manager Program (CFM). TFMA will identify and work with other associations and agencies to promote cross membership and the CFM Program.

Under "Conferences," TFMA is committed to improving the quality, diversity and content of our yearly conferences/workshops and strive to make these events the premier continuing education and networking opportunities for floodplain management professionals. TFMA will build on and expand our partnerships/relationships with our Corporate Sponsors and Exhibitors. With top of the line training and education, exciting silent auctions, vendor exhibits, door prize drawings, entertaining and fun networking socials, TFMA guarantees you the best bang for your training budget.

Under "Funding/Financial Reserves," TFMA will expand, diversify and leverage funding sources and partnerships to strengthen the association's financial stability and grow fund reserves. We are committed to seeking various grants to provide addition funding for TFMA projects and activities.

The fifth goal focuses on "Outreach." TFMA is committed to Flood Awareness Outreach as a critical avenue of achieving our Mission. TFMA seeks to expand effective use of social media to reach out to members and the public. TFMA will have the ability to reach the public with the latest in flood awareness information with our traveling exhibit booth. Add the Stormwater model to the exhibit and TFMA has an excellent opportunity to demonstrate to the public (adults and kids) how Texas watersheds respond to rainfall and flooding.

The final portion of the TFMA Strategic Plan consists of numerous Strategic Opportunities and Actions. I will not go into these for this article, but these actions and opportunities are actions that TFMA committees will build on and expand over the coming years. It is YOU who must get involved to move TFMA forward in new directions in the coming years. We must work together to make it happen. And we will.

I must shout out a big Thank You to TFMA Vice President Joe Fernandez for his hard and diligent work on putting the Plan together and also a big Thank You to Joe's employer, San Antonio River Authority for supporting Joe in this effort.

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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Deadline for
The Lightning Rod
Winter Issue is
December 30



Your President's Message

I hope you all are enjoying the cooler fall temperatures as we near the end of 2016. This year has been record breaking for TFMA! Our TFMA Fall Technical Summit was our largest conference ever with 620 registered. Thank you to everyone who attended the conference, our sponsors that make these events possible, and our wonderful TFMA office staff Markie and Selina who work so hard to put on a great event! Special thanks to our volunteer photographer, Paul Mendes. Check out pictures from the Fall Summit [here](#). TFMA also started a new tradition with our TFMA *Because We Care* program. At the Fall Summit, we collected over \$1,100 in donations and many canned foods for the Central Texas Food Bank. We look forward to continuing this new initiative at each of our conferences with an opportunity to give back to the community where our conference is located.



I often receive questions about where our future conferences will be held. Save these dates now for our 2017 and 2018 events:

29th Annual TFMA Spring Conference

April 25 - 28, 2017 - Renaissance Hotel Richardson/Dallas

2017 Fall Technical Summit

August 29 - September 1, 2017 - Hyatt Hill Country Resort San Antonio

30th Annual TFMA Spring Conference **30 Years of TFMA**

March 6 - 9, 2018 - Horseshoe Bay Resort

2018 Fall Technical Summit

August 28 - August 31, 2018 - Hyatt Hill Country Resort San Antonio

This year was also a record breaking year for TFMA membership and CFMs. TFMA now has over 2,300 members and we just recently certified our 2,000th CFM! Teresa Rose, CFM from the City of Wichita Falls became our 2,000th CFM when she passed the exam at the NCTCOG August exam offering in Arlington. Teresa will receive a free conference registration to the 2017 Spring Conference in Richardson.

For all of our 2,000+ CFMs – don't forget that we are in CFM Renewal Season. Your renewal and CECs are due before the end of the year. Don't wait until December 31! Remember that you will log your own CECs on the TFMA website at any time during the year. You need 8 CECs each year. If you are still looking to earn more CECs, check out our [TFMA Training Calendar](#) for the remaining courses in 2016. If you have any questions about your CFM renewal, don't hesitate to reach out to the TFMA Executive Office at TFMA@tfma.org or 512-260-1366. We look forward to making 2017 an even bigger year for TFMA. If you have any ideas or suggestions for our association, feel free to contact me (President@TFMA.org).

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

Participated in the **TFMA 2D Modeling Questionnaire** and want to see the results? Look no more - [click here](#) to access the full report or contact the TFMA office and we'll email you this interesting report.

2016 TFMA Fall Technical Summit Sponsors

Many thanks to all the companies below that provided support to the 2016 TFMA Fall Technical Summit at Hyatt Lost Pines Resort in Austin/Bastrop in September.

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2016 TFMA Fall Technical Summit Wrap-up

Over 600 attendees participated in TFMA's Fall Technical Summit held Sept. 7-9 at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort in Bastrop/Austin. Highlights of the conference included over 15 hours of continuing professional development workshops and concurrent sessions including the opening and closing plenary sessions. Don't miss out on the 29th Annual TFMA Spring Conference coming up in Dallas - you never know what you'll be missing!



TFMA Election Time

It's election time at TFMA. *What?* You thought you were finished with elections and candidates? Well, we can promise you a positive, happy, election process with TFMA. No mudslinging and no negative ads!

Please consider running for a position on the TFMA Board of Directors. **Nominations will open February 1, 2017 and will close March 1, 2017.** This timeframe will allow you to nominate someone you think would be a great asset to the TFMA Board of Directors or, you can throw your own hat in the ring! TFMA full and life members may nominate any eligible candidate for any Officer seat, but may only nominate Regional Director candidates from their own region. Eligible nominees may run for only one office per election. Following is a description of the duties and responsibilities for each elected position:

PRESIDENT: The President shall preside at all meetings and shall see that orders and resolutions of the Board of Directors are carried out. In addition, the President shall assist the Executive Director in the execution of his/her duties and shall provide support of the goals and objectives of the Association. The President, in concert and coordination with the Executive Director, is empowered to officially represent the Association at all public meetings, conferences or other related official functions and to act as a liaison with other associations, organizations, federal and state agencies, the private business sector and the general public. Temporary task forces report to the President and Vice President.

VICE PRESIDENT: The Vice President shall arrange the location and time for Board meetings and shall organize such meetings. In the event of the President's absence, inability or refusal to act, the Board of Directors may direct the Vice-President to act in the place and stead of the President and shall exercise and discharge such other duties as may be required by the Board of Directors. Temporary task forces report to the President and Vice President.

SECRETARY: The Secretary shall record the votes and keep the minutes of all meetings and proceedings of the Board of Directors and the general membership of the Association. In addition, the Secretary shall ensure that meeting minutes are made available to the Board of Directors within 30 calendar days after the conclusion of the meeting. The Secretary shall prepare and send written notices of all meetings of the Board and General Membership.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall assure the disbursement of funds of the Association in the manner prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall prepare or cause to be prepared all financial reports required by the Board of Directors, the bylaws or as required by the State of Texas. The Treasurer shall keep or cause to be kept an accurate accounting of all financial transactions of the Association. The Treasurer shall prepare a financial statement of the Association's general fund, a statement of the funds generated by and the costs associated with the Annual conference, and a statement of the funds and costs generated by the Associations Certified Floodplain Manager Program.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS: ([Click here to identify your region](#))

- Regional Director will attend Association Board of Director meetings to provide input, offer suggestions and provide general direction to the Association. In the event a Regional Director is unable to attend a called meeting of the Board, he or she will be responsible for reviewing the meeting agenda and other Board briefing materials, and will provide the Board with appropriate comments or concerns which may affect the regional membership by written notice. Written notice/information report must be sent to the President or Vice President prior to the called meeting.
- Attend the annual Spring Conference of the Association and participate in the general membership meeting. If the Regional Director is unable to attend, he or she shall be responsible for reviewing all topics slated for discussion at the membership meeting and will provide comments to the Board on discussion items by written notice. Written notice/information report must be sent to the President or Vice President prior to the called meeting.
- Solicit input on regional issues from his/her regional membership at other called meetings within the region by written notice, telephone contact, or by email.
- Recruit new members for the Association and promote the goals and objectives of the Association within the assigned region.
- Call at least one annual meeting within the region of the regional membership to discuss issues and concerns. This meeting can be in conjunction with training or professional certification seminars.
- Assist the Association with the promotion of the Certified Floodplain Manager Program. The Regional Director will be responsible for holding at least one meeting per year within the region to offer a floodplain management training and to arrange for the proctoring of the CFM Exam. The scheduling and content of the training and of the CFM Exam will be coordinated with the Executive Office. Written notice of such meetings shall be provided in advance to the Board of Directors. The Regional Director shall prepare a semiannual report to the Board of Directors on specific activities and meetings within the region.
- Provide an update article about the region and its members' activities for the Newsletter on a semiannual basis.
- Each Regional Director is a standing member of the Training Committee.

TFMA WANTS YOU! PLEASE CONSIDER RUNNING FOR AN OFFICE ON THE BOARD!



WE WANT YOU!

Advertise Here
3-5/8" x 4-5/16"

(2) Issues	\$625
(4) Issues	\$925

Reach over 3,000 members and deliver your message directly to them. Each edition of the newsletter will contain important information on TFMA, it's members, articles/best practices and lots more.

Advertise Here
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(4) Issues	\$625

WANTED: Technical Articles

Email us at:

ssmirza@tfma.org for submission requirements, deadlines or for more information call us at 512-260-1366.

Advertise Here
7-1/2" x 4-7/16"

(2) Issues	\$1,250
(4) Issues	\$1,750

Electronic submissions only. Provide a full color graphic of the ad and your company information to the TFMA Executive Office at: ssmirza@tfma.org.

2017 TFMA Awards Nominations



Every year at the TFMA Annual Spring Conference, we recognize outstanding contributions to floodplain management throughout Texas. Please consider nominating your colleagues, clients or community for a 2017 TFMA Award.

The award categories, nomination forms, and more details can be found on the website by [clicking here](#) or copy and paste this link on your browser: <https://tfma.site-ym.com/?page=TypesofAwards>.



Submit recommendation forms to the TFMA Executive Office, tfma@tfma.org, by **January 31, 2017**. Awards will be presented at the Annual Conference Membership/Awards Luncheon on April 27, 2017 in Dallas.

Hurry and nominate that person or company that goes over and above the call of duty! Call TFMA at 512-260-1366 if you have any questions.

TFMA Career Center

Looking for a new job opportunity? Looking to advance your career? Look no further - the TFMA Career Center has taken the membership by storm with many opportunities being posted at least 2-3 a month. Applications are still being accepted by the following:

Hydraulic Engineer/Hydrologist - USACE, Fort Worth
Engineer I, Water Resources - Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Seguin, TX
Project Engineer Hydrology & Hydraulics - Sherwood Design Engineers, Houston
City Engineer - City of Brownwood
Assistant City Engineer, Engineering Services - City of San Angelo
Senior Engineer, Stormwater Capital Program - City of Arlington
Engineer C-Floodplain Office & Flood Warning Section - City of Austin
Civil Engineer/Project Manager - Freese & Nichols, Lubbock

[Click here](#) to get more information on these openings and for more information on how to apply. Thank you to all the organizations that have supported TFMA by posting their

2017 TFMA Membership\CFM Renewal - It's Renewal Time

Follow these simple steps and your TFMA Membership\CFM Renewal process will go very smoothly:

1. Log in to your profile at www.tfma.org
2. Click "Manage Profile", then on the "Professional Development" icon under the "Contents & Features" tab.
3. Click "Add Entry" – then fill out the following information:
4. Certification Program: CFM Renewal 2016
5. Credit Type: CEC
6. Insert the date the training was completed, NOT today's date
7. Credits: Amount of credits earned
8. Credits will not expire but in order to print a renewal certificate you will need to add the expiration date of **12/31/2017**
9. No score necessary
10. Activity code not necessary
11. Upload the documentation that goes along with the CEC's you are recording. Note: you must save your file on your computer **FIRST** in order to upload here.

Need help? Call us at 512-260-1366 or email us at tfma@tfma.org. We're here to help you every step of the way!!



Call for Abstracts

April 25 - 28, 2017 * Dallas
"EDUCATE TO MITIGATE"

The Texas Floodplain Management Association invites you to submit an abstract for the 29th Annual TFMA Spring Conference. Topics should include but not limited to: Stormwater & Floodplain Management, flood recovery, water quality enhancement, stream restoration, watershed protection & planning, emergency preparedness, drainage criteria, innovative techniques, technological advances, hydrologic & hydraulic modeling, GIS application, no adverse impact, low impact development, lessons learned, and project updates.

ABSTRACTS

Abstract proposals are now being accepted for workshops, plenary and concurrent sessions. Abstracts should be limited to one page (Word document please) and must include the following:

- Title of the presentation
- A brief description of your topic or two objectives
- Type of presentation: Workshop, Plenary, or Concurrent Session

Plenary session topics are no more than 30 minutes; Concurrent Sessions are 30 minutes to an hour; Workshops are typically 4 hours long.

PRESENTERS

If your abstract contains more than one author, you must indicate the name of the individual(s) who will be presenting and attending the conference to do so. Once all abstracts have been submitted and reviewed, notification will be emailed to you on or before January 20, 2017. PLEASE NOTE: Should your abstract be accepted and you are not able to attend after your commitment, you must notify the TFMA office or the Committee Chair as soon as possible with the name, contact information, etc. of the person who is replacing you at least 3 weeks before the conference.

ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL DEADLINES

Workshops: December 9, 2016

Plenary & Concurrent Sessions: January 13, 2017

EMAIL YOUR ABSTRACTS TO: John A. Espinoza, PE, CFM, *TFMA Committee Chair*, 210-347-5330 tfmaconference@gmail.com OR TFMA@tfma.org

TFMA Governmental Relations Committee Update

By Wes Birdwell, PE, TFMA Governmental Relations

It has been a busy year for TFMA and we are gearing up for the 2017 Legislative Session. We hope you'll review this update of activities and consider volunteering to help with TFMA's efforts.

The State of Texas places a \$50 tariff on every National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy sold in our state. This generated \$5.7M of tax revenue in 2014 alone. Since the tariff was established in the 1970's, it has generated tens of millions of dollars. Unfortunately, this money has largely not gone to floodplain management. It has gone into the state's general revenue fund where it has been used for numerous purposes other than floodplain management. By 2007, Texas' NFIP was located at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and had dwindled to one full-time and one part-time staff. TFMA supported Senate Bill 1436 that moved the state's NFIP to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and diverted \$3M annually from the tariff into a new Flood Management Fund for the TWDB. The TWDB immediately was able to enhance their NFIP state program by expanding their staff and efforts. Unfortunately, Texas had a recession in 2009-2011, and the Texas Legislature re-diverted these funds along with a multitude of other funds back to general revenue to balance the budget. Following the funding cut, TWDB unfortunately experienced a reduction in force in the NFIP group.

Near the end of the last legislative session, immediately after the 2015 Memorial Day Floods, the Governor diverted \$6.8M to the Flood Management Fund for TWDB's 2016-2017 budget. TWDB immediately began to ramp up their NFIP related activities. However, since this was a one-time emergency appropriation of funds, TWDB is not certain if they will be able to maintain the current level of floodplain management effort into the future. The Legislature re-convenes in January 2017 and will set TWDB's budget for the next two years. This provides TFMA the opportunity to reach out to legislators in their District and Capitol offices during the past six months to educate members about our organization and to develop relationships with legislators. We are also supporting the 2007 Flood Management Fund, and the need to continue to put the NFIP tariff revenue into the fund. The really good news is that the TWDB has asked the Legislature for \$12.458M in their 2018-2019 budget. If granted, this funding will enable the TWDB to continue and improve their floodplain management efforts! To gain some perspective, if you compare this requested funding to the cost of rebuilding after the floods of the last two years, now nearing \$300M, it will be money well spent. And, let's not even try to compare it to the lives lost in these recent floods. Texas' flood problem is not going to fix itself. We must do better.

Accordingly, this summer, TFMA President Jessica Baker kicked off TFMA's new *Texas FloodED Program*. She asked for volunteers to visit local legislative offices, introduce them to TFMA and support funding for TWDB. The response from our membership was awesome, and more than 40 such visits have occurred. A very big "Thank you!!!" to all of you who have helped. We have received a very good response from the legislators you visited. Due to your efforts, we believe that we have a very good chance to help TWDB obtain the funding they need to continue their NFIP activities. This is huge. But we will need to get one more push to help TWDB attain the full \$12.458M. We will need our locally elected officials to send support letters to our State Senators and Representatives, and we will again need your help to get this done. Some of you old-timers may remember doing this to get Senate Bill 1436 passed in 2007. Now we need to do it again to get the funding. You'll hear more about this soon!

We have also scheduled TFMA's 1st ever "TFMA Day at the Capitol" in Austin on February 21, 2017! This is during the Legislative Session and we are seeking TFMA member volunteers to join us for a full day of meetings with our State Representatives, Senators, and their staff. We will be assigning teams and each team will visit 3-4 key legislators during the day. We will also have a keynote speaker to address us at the end of the day. **If you are interested in participating, please [click here](#) for more information and sign up by DECEMBER 2!**

Thank you in advance for your efforts as we support increased funding for flood programs in Texas!



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 supporting the floodplain community with new thoughts and ideas. Congratulations to our newly certified.

Josephine Boado – Omega Engineers
Apurba Borah – U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC)
John Brandon – City of Bastrop
Jerald Brownlee – City of Corinth
Keith Byrne – Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Laura Clemons – Collaborative Communities
Hamilton Dallagsperina – Huitt Zollars, Inc.
Gregory DiCioccio – HCFCD, Houston
Nick DuBose – Wade Trim
Kameron Erbatur – KCE Engineering, LLC
Jerry Gainer – Busch Hutchison & Associates
Berton Guidry – Bridgefarmer & Associates, Inc.
Xin He – Harris County Flood Control District
Tom Hegemier – Alan Plummer Associates
David Heizer – AECOM
Duane Hengst – City of Hurst
Trace Hilton – City of Mansfield
Angela Johnson – City of Austin
Alan Lopez – AECOM
Phil Martin – Mike Stone Associates
David Martinez – City of Coleman
Ben Medina – City of Rio Hondo
Boris Minot – Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Rutilio Mora – City of Alice
Jerod Mott – M&S Engineering
Caleb Mudford – MTG Engineers & Surveyors
Mitchell Osburn – TxDDEM
Koby Osowski – University of North Texas
Mark Pauls – Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Chris Rawson – CoreLogic
Kelley Rich – HDR Engineering
Hector David Rivera – Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Dan Roark – Dan M. Roark, LLC
Joseph Roberts – Cobb, Fendley and Associate
Gillian Roos – AECOM
Les Rumburg – City of LaMarque
Federico Sanchez – City of Round Rock
Valeria Seca – Webb County Planning Dept.
Matt Stahl – Alan Plummer Associates
Mike Stone – Mike Stone Associates
Mark Velasquez – City of Sealy
Alicia Villarreal – Webb County

Lee von Gynz-Guethé – Pape-Dawson Engineers
Shelby Wiedrich – Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Alexis Woffenden – Chan & Partners Engineering



29th Annual TFMA Spring Conference

“Educate to Mitigate”



April 26-29, 2017
**Renaissance Dallas/
Richardson**

Mark your Calendars!

TFMA Training

November 28 – December 1 – 273, 4-day course, Arlington – Exam to follow on December 2
November 28 – December 1 – 273, 4-day course, San Antonio – Exam to follow on December 2
December 2 – Letter of Map Change -Corpus Christi
December 6 – 2016 NFIP Refresher – Fort Worth
December 7 – Region 4 & 10 Luncheon – Grapevine
December 14 – Floodplain Administrators/CRS Users Group – Arlington
January 23-25, 2017 – Water for Texas Conference - Hosted by TX Water Development Board to be held in Austin.

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

Outreach in Action



TFMA's Because We Care Program was a big success at the Fall Technical Summit with over \$1,200 in cash donations and close to 400 pounds of food items donated to the Central Texas Food Bank. All in all, it was enough to prepare close to 5,000 meals!



TFMA members from Williamson County received the newly printed 2017 TFMA Calendars in anticipation of their "Dino Days" event.

TFMA participated for the first time at the TX Municipal League Annual Conference in Austin this past October. Over 3,000 people attend this event every year. TFMA came away with many leads and spread the word on who TFMA is and what we do.

Texas Floodplain Management Association

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Are You Connected?



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