

NeFSMA

Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association



December 2005 Newsletter

Thank You!

A special THANK YOU should be offered to all of those that have helped us move through our development period to reach the point of having been a functional organization through our first anniversary. Glen Johnson, Carter Hubbard, and Brian Dunnigan were instrumental in getting the organization started. Jim Williams at DNR was an excellent facilitator to get things moving. Glenn and Carter went out of their way at ASFPM conferences to organize gatherings to foster our association. Glenn's help with the legal aspects of organization really smoothed the way for getting us through that difficult step.

Election of Officers

The First Annual Meeting of NeFSMA was held at the Papio Missouri River NRD offices on September 16, 2005. The meeting was attended by 15 members. Part of that meeting involved the election of officers. Carter Hubbard announced his schedule would not allow him to accept a nomination for a second term on the board. He has volunteered to retain himself as our Webmaster.

Board Chairperson is Paul Woodward, CFM. Paul is a Water Resources Engineer for the Papio-Missouri River NRD located in Omaha.

Vice Chairperson is LeAnn Klein. LeAnn is the Buffalo County Floodplain & Zoning Administrator in Kearney.

Second Vice Chair will again be Bill Jones. Bill is a Floodplain Management Specialist with NDNR in Lincoln.

At Large Board Members: Nicole Fleck-Tooze, CFM will again serve as an At Large Board

Member. Nicole is the Special Projects Administrator for the City of Lincoln.

Rock Krzycki, P.E. is the second At Large Board Member. Rock is Senior Engineering Specialist with the Water Quality and Education Program for the City of Lincoln.

Secretary will again be John Cambridge, P.E., CFM. John is a Senior Water Resources Engineer with HDR Engineering Inc., sharing offices between Omaha and Lincoln.

Treasurer will again be Laurie Carrette Zook, P.E., CFM. Laurie is a Senior Water Resources Engineer with HDR Engineering Inc. in Omaha.

First Year Successes

NPDES Phase 2 Workshop

The initial NeFSMA public outreach program consisted of a workshop. The Central Platte Natural Resources District kindly offered their conference room at their Grand Island headquarters for this informational meeting. NeFSMA members from Papio-Missouri River NRD, the City of Lincoln and Lower Platte South NRD provided a specialized workshop aimed at the ten communities in Nebraska identified to meet NPDES Phase II Program requirements. The program specifically addressed the 6 Step NPDES Phase II Permit requirements.

There were 35 pre-registered. Nine of ten communities Phase II communities (except Lexington) attended. Staff from two NRDs, and a number of consultants, DEQ, and NDNR attended. There was an excellent exchange of information and generally good interaction amongst participants. This workshop provided 5 hours of credits for continuing education.

Floodproofing Workshop

The National Floodproofing Committee from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided a floodproofing workshop in South Sioux City on July 21st. Randy Behm and Larry Buss from the Omaha District provided a full day of useful floodproofing information. The workshop provided 6 hours of credit for continuing education.

Map Change Workshop

William Walker from URS Corporation was contracted to provide a 2 day-long workshops on NFIP Map Changes. The workshops were held in Lincoln and Grand Island. These technical workshops provided instruction for engineers and other professionals on how to effectively submit map change requests to FEMA for Letters of Map Amendment (LOMA), Letters of Map Revision (LOMR) and Conditional Letters of Map Revision (CLOMR). Mr. Walker brought forward the perspective of an engineer who worked for FEMA processing these requests. Approximately 60 floodplain management professionals attended these workshops, which offered 6 hours of credit for continuing education.

Floodplain Management Workshops

NDNR staff held three floodplain management workshops in conjunction with Computer Science Corporation (CSC), the Bureau and Statistical agents for the National Flood Insurance Program. CSC provides workshops for lenders and agents targeting the flood insurance side of the program. NDNR staff dovetailed workshops for floodplain management administrators to these workshops to provide an opportunity for administrators to obtain floodplain management information and interact with other administrators in an open format workshop. Floodplain administrators are welcome and encouraged to attend the insurance workshops to better understand how flood insurance and floodplain management interact. Last year, these workshops were held in early August in Kearney, Ogallala, and Lincoln.

First Annual Meeting

As mentioned above, the First Annual meeting of NeFSMA was held at the Papio-Missouri River NRD in Omaha on September 16th. The meeting fulfilled constitution requirements to meet and elect officers. It was also a forum to discuss the future of the organization and look at training opportunities

NeFSMA may be able to coordinate, or co-sponsor with others. The meeting concluded with an excellent box lunch picnic from the NRD's beautiful vantage point overlooking Wehrspann Lake.

Meet the Board

As NeFSMA enters its second year, Paul Woodward with the Papio-Missouri River NRD in Omaha will serve as your Chairman. Paul works as an engineer for the NRD handling several programs and projects related to both floodplain and stormwater management. He is a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM), one of 25 in Nebraska, but hopes that this number will increase through educational opportunities offered by NeFSMA.

Paul grew up in Central Nebraska, along the Platte River between Grand Island and Hastings. He attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln where he received a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering. Paul currently resides in Omaha, but enjoys getting outdoors to hunt, fish, and camp.



Paul and all of our board members are here to help serve you in any way we can. We have a great cross section of professionals to assist you with floodplain and stormwater issues and questions. Please don't hesitate to contact us at any time. Contact information for all board members is listed on the website (www.nefsma.net).

Legislative Issues

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) is actively involved in pressing for sound solutions to the rebuilding of New Orleans and the gulf coast following damages caused by levee failure, wind and storm surge from Hurricane Katrina. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced by this disaster, and there is tremendous pressure being applied to quickly get their lives back to normal. If those homes were damaged or destroyed, there is a good argument that

they should not be replaced/repared as they were built before damage. Reaching a solution that protects future stake holders from devastating losses must be achieved. If the storm was beyond a 100-year storm, should those areas be required to meet a higher standard? If the storm was less than a 100-year storm, does that mean that the maps are inaccurate? If that is the case, more accurate data must be used to ensure that those structures are replaced to standards that minimize future flooding risks.

Stormwater Management Update

The NPDES Storm Water Phase I and Phase II Programs regulate the discharge of pollutants in storm water from certain construction sites, industrial facilities and municipal storm sewer outfalls. Phase II was promulgated by EPA in March of 2003. Storm Water Phase II federal regulations also increased the number of municipalities and urban areas that are subject to the NPDES program for storm water discharges.

The Cities of Omaha and Lincoln were subject to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (also known as the MS4) Program with the implementation of Phase I. Lincoln was issued an MS4 Permit on September 1, 2002 and the Omaha MS4 Permit was issued on October 1, 2003. Phase II has expanded the areas requiring coverage under an NPDES MS4 Permit to include the urbanized areas in Douglas, Sarpy, Lancaster, Washington and Dakota Counties. An NPDES Permit for Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties has been issued effective August 1, 2004 and the Dakota County MS4 permit was issued December 1, 2004. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) determined that the communities of Beatrice, Columbus, Fremont, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Norfolk, North Platte and Scottsbluff were exempt as of December 20, 2002. However, new Total Maximum Daily Load reports which have been public noticed and approved by EPA, will make all communities but Hastings subject to Phase II regulations for MS4s. A statewide general permit is planned to cover these communities.

Public Outreach and Education is a key component required under these community NPDES Permits. As an organization, NeFSMA was proud to sponsor

the NPDES Phase II Workshop in Grand Island last year and looks forward to providing addition public information assistance in the future. Communities involved with the NPDES Stormwater Program should feel free to contact NeFSMA Officials with any needs ranging from public information like brochures to presentation materials.

Floodplain Management

Opportunities to promote the association

Is anyone attending other events in the state where other prospective members may be gathered? If the opportunity arises to spread the word about our organization, contact one of the officers, and we will get some handouts to distribute.

Subcommittee Activity

It was decided at the Annual Meeting that a subcommittee is to be established to look into training objectives and opportunities for the upcoming year (look at who can provide the training, what needs are going to be considered, and what are the opportunities to sponsor/co-sponsor training opportunities for membership). We will be looking into fee-based incentives for participation in the workshops as a NeFSMA member. The second vice chair is the committee chairman and a group including Chuck Meier, LeAnn Klein, Eric Dove and the 2nd Vice Chair (Bill Jones) will act in this capacity.

Contact the Board:

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Visit NeFSMA on the web at:
<http://www.nefsma.net/>