

Please help us keep our records up to date. If the name that appears on this newsletter is for an individual no longer with your organization, please call (785) 296-5440, or send an e-mail to [tmorey@kda.state.ks.us](mailto:tmorey@kda.state.ks.us) to report the change.



# KANSAS

## FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



July 2008



Division of Water Resources Teams With  
KS-TRAIN

In this newsletter...  
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046-08  
 Kansas Department of Agriculture  
 Division of Water Resources  
 Floodplain Management  
 109 SW 9th Street 2nd Floor  
 Topeka KS 66612-1283

### Sherry Fergel returns as Floodplain Coordinating Associate

Sherry Fergel returned to the state floodplain team in May after working for KDA in the water appropriation program. She looks forward to assisting with the map modernization process, visiting officials and ensuring Kansas communities are provided the opportunity to offer input for their unique situations through the mapping process.

Don't hesitate to contact Sherry with your map or ordinance questions at (785)-296-7769, or by email to [sfergel@kda.state.ks.us](mailto:sfergel@kda.state.ks.us)

With the help of staff at KS-TRAIN a form of online training in floodplain management is now available. This training is based on the booklet, "Floodplain Management in Kansas, 2007 Quick Guide", and is ready for use now.

Putting this training online allows local officials who can not attend a scheduled class to get training they need. It is a comprehensive, beginning level course. This program may be expanded in the future to include advanced levels of training.

To get started, visit <https://ks.train.org> to register for your account.

Benefits of an account include:

- Access to information on hundreds of courses in various fields
- Ability to save your searches for courses in the subjects, formats, or competencies that interest you, with optional e-mail notices of new courses
- An online transcript to keep track of your learning
- Quick online registration for courses that use the KS-TRAIN registration system
- Message and document boards to communicate with other professionals
- 24-hour access to special state and local announcements
- A five-star review system to help you find the best courses for your needs

After you open an account, visit the KS-TRAIN website home page and use the course search option. Look for the floodplain management course called:

**[KDA: 2008 Floodplain Management Training - Web-based \(#1013654\)](#)**

When you start the course, there will be information to read through and a set of pre- and post- course questions to answer. You will receive a certificate of completion after the open book post-test. The website will keep track of courses completed by each person.

A special thanks to the staff at KS-TRAIN for making this possible.

Contact [ssamuelson@kda.state.ks.us](mailto:ssamuelson@kda.state.ks.us) if you have questions about this training.

### KDA/DWR Water Structures Floodplain Program Staff

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**Association of State Floodplain Managers Conference in Reno,  
Nevada**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) was held from May 18-23, 2008.

Over 1,300 floodplain management professionals from a wide array of disciplines attended the conference. There were important speakers at the plenary sessions. Small group panel discussions and meetings created a forum for diverse opinions. There were also seminars, trainings, and field trips. The vendors had lots of exhibits and lots of free information to give away. In the evenings social events created great networking opportunities.

Floodplain management officials from Kansas were able to attend this important conference in part because of funds available from Kansas. When asked about their experiences at the ASFPM Conference these are some of the responses by some local officials from Kansas.

Judy Freeman, Crawford County floodplain manager: "I totally enjoyed the entire conference. Meeting people from different states and learning that our problems are all the same and getting ideas how they handle in-office procedures to utilize and make the program work more efficiently. The best class I attended was a workshop on Wednesday put on by AMEC. It gave me insight as to how to prepare for a flood (and other) disasters in a 24-hour time frame and what to do after the flood from 48 hours up to a few weeks. This was a very good seminar. I would attend more workshops like that."

Peggy Sneegas, City of Overland Park floodplain manager: "The conference helped me with my CRS application and gave me ideas about updating our flood plain management ordinance."

Sheila Dale, Osage County floodplain manager: "The knowledge that I came home with will make my job easier and I am starting to understand all the layers that are involved with the NFIP, and how each has an important role. I see that we are not educating the public and the local official in the job that we do, and why it is important (to educate). The networking also has a value in the fact that it gives us more resources to ask questions and learn. I like the fact that individuals from CRS were there, and that I was able to sit with them and talk to them about the program. I am also a big fan of hands-on learning, because I believe that I retain more in those classes. I am also looking to expanding the library in the office and the public library. The CRS information has given me other ideas to improve the department. This conference has also given me the challenge to continue to gain knowledge in the field."

In 2009 funds will again be available to help floodplain managers from Kansas attend the ASFPM conference. For more information, see the article : "Funds available to attend the ASFPM National Conference June 7-12, 2009 in Orlando, Florida" included in this newsletter.

**Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Division of Water Resources  
Floodplain Program  
Training Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name, date and location of training you will attend \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Please share this invitation with anyone else who could benefit from the training.

\*\*Classroom locations will be sent to registered participants one week before the training.

**Please mail or fax your registration to:**

**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**109 SW 9<sup>th</sup> STREET, 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR**

**TOPEKA, KS 66612-1283**

**Fax to: (785) 296-4835**

If you have questions about training, please contact Steve Samuelson at [ssamuelson@kda.state.ks](mailto:ssamuelson@kda.state.ks) or (785) 296-4622, or Tom Morey at [tmorey@kda.state.ks.us](mailto:tmorey@kda.state.ks.us) or (785) 296-5440.

## Training Opportunities

The Floodplain Management Program will host the following training sessions throughout Kansas. If you are interested in any of the no-cost training opportunities, please contact Tom Morey at (785) 296-5440 or Steve Samuelson at (785) 296-4622.

### Basics of the National Flood Insurance Program

This is for officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. The focus is on the NFIP and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinance administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance.

Dodge City—Aug. 20, 2008, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Wakeeney—Aug. 21, 2008, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar. The Kansas Association of Floodplain Managers 2008 conference is September 3 and 4 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Salina. Contact Jon Bristor, Treasurer, 110 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Wellington, KS 67152, (620) 326-2207, for registration information.

### **Funds available to attend the ASFPM National Conference June 7-12, 2009 in Orlando, Florida**

The 2009 Association of State Floodplain Managers National Conference, “*Green Works to Reduce Flood Losses*”, will be June 7-12, 2009 in Orlando, Florida. This conference is an excellent opportunity for Kansas floodplain managers to receive premier training on mapping technologies, on adopting new flood hazard maps, and to discuss topics directly related to mapping and map modernization. The conference will be attended by nearly 1,300 floodplain management professionals and officials.

To help you attend this important event, the Division of Water Resources has funds from FEMA’s map modernization management support grant and will provide up to \$1,200 each for up to ten community officials to help defray the cost of attending this conference.

If you are interested contact Tom Morey at [tmorey@kda.state.ks.us](mailto:tmorey@kda.state.ks.us) or (785) 296-5440. Tom has application forms available and will distribute those forms as requested by community officials. Assistance awards will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Lessons Learned In Chapman

A tornado struck the City of Chapman in Dickinson County on June 11, 2008 . Damage was minor for some structures while others were completely demolished. It was clear from the beginning that many homes would be deemed substantially damaged.

The City of Chapman quickly began a process to inform residents of substantial damage requirements. Information packets were distributed and public meetings were held within days of the event.

The eastern and southern parts of Chapman are all special flood hazard area (SFHA). The flooding sources are Chapman Creek on the east and the Smokey Hill River on the south side. The path of the tornado in Chapman began at the southwest part of the city just where the flood zone AE begins and continued northeast. Numerous structures in the SFHA were damaged. If a building in a SFHA is substantially damaged by any means, it must be flood protected when it is rebuilt. For a residential structure, this usually means that it must be elevated so that the lowest floor is one foot above the base flood elevation. Other options are demolition or relocation. For a non-residential structure, an additional option of floodproofing can be allowed if certified by a registered professional engineer or architect.

It was important to not allow substantially damaged buildings to be rebuilt without meeting the elevation or floodproofing requirements. Staff from Division of Water Resources and volunteers from Kansas Association of Floodplain Managers worked in Chapman to explain the regulations to homeowners, business people, and school officials. Many property owners did not want to fill in basements that had saved them from the tornado.

A team from FEMA helped make the residential substantial damage estimations for the City of Chapman. More than 50 structures were determined to have received enough damage to be identified as substantially damaged. Substantial damage requirements affected homes as well as schools and churches. The City of Chapman notified owners of the identified properties soon after the damage estimates were finalized. It was important that the city officials made that information available as soon as they could.

Disaster Declaration FEMA-1776-DR was declared for Kansas on July 9, 2008 . This declaration was for Chapman and all other Kansas counties affected by severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that took place between May 22, 2008, and June 16, 2008. Declaration FEMA-1776-DR made public assistance available. Individual assistance would not be available. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds may be available in Chapman to help individuals as long as certain criteria are met.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds can be awarded to a community to help property owners with the cost of elevation, construction of a safe room, or to build a shelter. Such grants can happen only if the community agrees to partner in the process and the community has a hazard mitigation plan in place. Dickinson County is working on a hazard mitigation plan at this time.

The tornado in Chapman emphasized the need for early communication. It also became clear that it is important to get hazard mitigation planning done before disasters occur. Disasters like the Chapman tornado can occur at any time.