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- How to be a Cooperating Technical Partner - taught by FEMA
- Floodplain Management 101 and 201 - taught by the Minnesota DNR.
- DFIRM Tool Overview - taught by Michael Baker Corporation.

A field tour of recently completed flood control projects in the Red River Valley and vendor exhibits are also part of the conference.

Additional information on the conference and a registration information can be downloaded from the MnAFPM website.

<http://www.mnafpm.org/annualconf2005.htm>

**MnAFPM Annual Conference**  
**to be held in Moorhead,**  
**September 12-13, 2005**

The 2005 Annual Conference of the Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers (MnAFPM) will be held in Moorhead, Minnesota on September 12-13, 2005. Speakers will include federal, state and local officials. Plenary and concurrent sessions will highlight:

- The evaluation and mapping of a community's risks.
- Resources available to help communities effectively manage floodplains.
- Case studies of how other communities have successfully managed floodplain impacts.

The conference will again include the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Review and Examination.

Educational workshops will include:

**Top 10 Reasons for**  
**Living in the Floodplain**

10. You can clean out your gutters as you wait for the rescue boat.
9. You really didn't need those things in the basement anyway.
8. Filling sand bags tones muscles.
7. You can go fishing without leaving your living room.
6. You can impress the neighborhood sweetheart by water skiing up and down your street.
5. You don't need a dock, just lash your boat to the front porch.
4. You periodically can recoup all that money you've paid in flood insurance premiums.
3. Your house will occasionally receive federally funded decor updates.
2. The TV news provides you with 15 minutes of fame (as your house washes downstream).
1. The Red Cross shelter is a great place to meet eligible singles.

## **MnAFPM and FEMA Help Local Officials Attend ASFPM Conference**

The annual conference for the national Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) was held in Madison, Wisconsin June 11-17, 2005. With the conference geographically close, it was possible for many more of our state's floodplain managers to attend than in past years. It was a great opportunity to: hear first-hand about the direction of floodplain management nationally, get updates on the map modernization process, attend training workshops, visit with a wide variety of vendors, and learn from the experiences of those involved with floodplain management / mapping, and network with attendees from around the county.

The Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers (MnAFPM) was able to offer training grants for four local officials, using \$3,333 that was awarded to the state from FEMA for that purpose. Local officials applied for the training grant money, which covered most of the conference registration and hotel costs. Preference for the training grants was given to applicants who plan to be involved with the MnAFPM and volunteer for a leadership role.

The four local officials who were able to attend with the assistance of the training grant money represented counties from across the state, each with unique planning and floodplain management challenges. They included:

- Tom Berry, Senior Planner/Shoreland Zoning Administrator, Dakota County
- Tim Magnusson, Director – Planning and Environmental Programs, Clay County
- Tina Rosenstein, Environmental Services Director, Nicollet County
- Krysta Reuter, Ramsey County Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Congratulation to these award winners!

*Contributed by Ceil Strauss, MnDNR..*

## **MnAFPM Spring Luncheon**

On May 17, 2005, Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers held their annual spring luncheon at Awada's Restaurant in St. Paul. Approximately 35 people attended the buffet-style luncheon.



The featured speaker was Mr. Steve Buan, Hydrology Program Manager for the Twin Cities National Weather Service (NWS). Steve presented an overview of the NWS hydrologic services, where to find water and weather information, and how that information can be used for planning from hours to months in advance.

The event was enjoyed by all who attended. Plan to join us in 2006 for the next spring luncheon.

## **FEMA's MHIP - June 2005 Update**

FEMA's Multi-Year Flood Hazard Implementation Plan (MHIP) was updated in June 2005. The Map Modernization Funding/Timing portion of the MHIP details FEMA's plans to update each county's floodplain maps and how much money FEMA will provide. The MHIP outlines the proposed schedule and funding (by county and federal fiscal year) for updating FEMA floodplain maps of all counties in the U.S.

The MHIP can be accessed through FEMA's website, [http://www.fema.gov/fhm/mh\\_main.shtml](http://www.fema.gov/fhm/mh_main.shtml). Follow the links to Appendix A which shows funding amounts by county. Minnesota is on pages 44 to 47.

*Contributed by Mr. Tom Lutgen, CFM, DNR Waters' Floodplain Program.*

## MnAFPM Members Attend ASFPM 2005 Annual Conference

The 2005 national Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) conference was held in Madison, Wisconsin in June. The conference theme was “No Adverse Impacts.” Over nine hundred planners, engineers, consultants, watershed managers, educators and government officials met for the largest and most comprehensive floodplain management conference in the world.

About 25 members of the MnAFPM and other Minnesotans attended. Five Minnesotans shared their expertise by presenting or moderating during the concurrent sessions.

The next national ASFPM conference will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 11-16, 2006.



*Minnesotans Suzanne Jiwani, Brett Coleman, and Bob Bezek informally meet after a plenary session at the national AFSPM in Madison, Wisconsin.*

Did you hear they are making a movie about the Grand Forks Flood?

It is called “A River Runs Over It.”

## Map Modernization Projects Underway

FEMA continues its program for converting all Flood Insurance Rate Maps to a digital, countywide format (DFIRM). This article updates the progress of this program in Minnesota.

In 2003, the final Isanti County DFIRMs became effective. In the last year, preliminary FIRMs have been completed in Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Swift, and Yellow Medicine. The digital, countywide product is appreciated, but the new mapping for these counties has illuminated some problems.

First, USGS quadrangle maps were generally used as the topographic base map to delineate the floodplains in these counties. (Parts of Yellow Medicine and Lac Qui Parle Counties had some old NRCS 4-foot topography that was used for floodplain mapping.) The accuracy of the mapping with regard to many houses and other structures is disputed. FEMA requires better topographic data or an elevation certificate to settle these disputes. With the current system, the homeowners feel financially burdened for a process they didn't request; to survey and submit elevation certificates, or pay flood insurance for structures that were not previously mapped in the floodplain. One possible solution to preempt these disputes is to have county staff survey and prepare elevations certificates for the borderline structures.

Second, the new maps still contain mapped areas without technical data to support a Base Flood Elevation and flood boundary delineation. Documentation of a Base Flood Elevation or other information used to map Approximate A zones on the new maps is generally not available. This becomes a bigger problem for the state as more counties' DFIRMs are created. Limited Detailed Studies would provide this needed information, however, funds for such analysis are limited.

In the next six months, preliminary FIRMs should be coming for Brown, Dakota, Hennepin, Lyon, Renville and Washington Counties. Map production continues or will start in Chippewa, Clay, Goodhue, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Nicollet, Olmsted, Redwood, Scott and Sherburne.

*Contributed by Suzanne Jiwani, MnDNR..*

## Does your Community's Floodplain Ordinance Need Updating?

The answer to this question is "yes" if your community is located outside of Hennepin County. This article is meant to provide an overview of the type of floodplain ordinance revisions now being mandated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and when these revisions must be adopted.

In the fall of 2003, FEMA notified the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Waters (DNR-Waters) that our sample floodplain management ordinances were missing mandatory FEMA provisions. These sample floodplain ordinances are adopted by communities to establish their eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program. Although FEMA had previously approved these sample ordinances for distribution, FEMA was adamant that the DNR update its sample floodplain ordinances and develop a schedule for all communities in Minnesota to adopt these updated ordinances.

The DNR-Waters completed the ordinance updates in January, 2004. The basic regulatory framework of a community's floodplain ordinance will remain the same. FEMA has required the addition of certain definitions and federal rule citations, clarification of floodproofing options, the addition of administrative procedures, and the addition of findings for the issuance of variances. It is now required that a community must now send FEMA and/or the state and neighboring communities notifications for watercourse and other modifications.

Probably the most significant change is that a community must clearly state that permits are also required for all repair and maintenance of structures, including all repairs to structures damaged by flood, fire, tornado, or other natural disasters. The previous sample floodplain ordinance stipulated that permits for reconstruction were only required for the repair of a "substantially" damaged structure. The threshold now states that all additions, structural alterations, modifications, and repair and maintenance equal or exceeding 50% of the nonconforming structure's pre-improvement/pre-

repair market value, then the structure must be elevated or floodproofed and made a conforming structure.

These updated floodplain ordinances will be adopted when a community next receives an updated flood insurance study and flood insurance rate map from FEMA. This should not increase the burden on the community since at that time a community will need to amend its floodplain ordinance anyway to adopt the new flood insurance study text and maps.

As FEMA's Map Modernization Program and county-wide mapping is completed statewide, cities and counties will receive new floodplain maps and will then adopt compliant floodplain ordinances. FEMA will have funded new county-wide flood insurance studies for most counties in Minnesota within the next five years.

If you would like more information on these FEMA mandated floodplain ordinance revisions, please contact Tom Lutgen at (651) 296-0522 or [tom.lutgen@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:tom.lutgen@dnr.state.mn.us).

*Contributed by Mr. Tom Lutgen, CFM, DNR Waters' Floodplain Program.*

Fargo's famous resident, Ole Olson, never tired of telling about his experiences during the Red River flood of 1997. He drove everyone crazy. He talked about it over beers at the Dew Drop Inn. He talked about it over coffee and donuts at Ethel's Java Joint. He talked to strangers and tourists as they strolled along the river walk. Every week Ole told flood stories to the checkout girl at Ralph's Prettygood Grocery.

When Ole died and went to heaven, he was met by Saint Peter, who said, "If there is anything you can think of that will make you happy here, just mention it." "Well, there is one thing," replied Ole, "I'd like to tell everyone about my experiences in the Flood of '97." "Well, that's fine," said Saint Peter, "Someone might be interested. But you ought to know, Noah's been up here for a long time."

**Becoming a Member of MnAFPM**

Becoming a Member of MnAFPM is easy. There is an application form on our website at [www.mnafpm.org/member.htm](http://www.mnafpm.org/member.htm). Simply fill it out and mail it with your dues.

Annual dues are only \$30 for a full membership. A student membership is only \$10. Additional options are listed on the application form.

**Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers  
Board of Directors and Committee Chairs**

President: Nancy Johnson Dent - Barr Engineering Company  
Vice President: Tom Berry - Dakota County  
Secretary: Ceil Strauss - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Treasurer: Brett Coleman - NRCS  
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