

# Floodplain and Shoreland Management *Notes*

## Accessory Structures in the SFHA

Accessory structures constructed within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) are often a source of great confusion and frustration for both permit applicants and local floodplain managers. As is the case with all development in the SFHA, accessory structures are regulated under the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) criteria and as such do need to be permitted by the local NFIP participating community. Specifically, the NFIP defines structure, in 44 CFR Part 59.1, as a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground as well as a manufactured home. The definition of structure makes no distinction between principal structures or those which are accessory to them. Later in 44 CFR Part 60.3 the requirement that new and substantially damaged/improved structures have their lowest floor elevated to at or above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) is established. 44 CFR Part 60.3 further states that the requirement "structurally dry flood-proofed to or above the BFE" may be used on non-residential buildings in lieu of elevation which is the only distinction related to use that is found in the NFIP criteria.

The limited categories of residential and non-residential structure under the NFIP protection standards has sometimes created confusion on which of the two categories a structure falls and has also brought into question the usefulness of certain buildings if they had to comply with the elevation standards. Many of these types of issues were brought into the spotlight during the response and subsequent recovery to the great 1993 Mississippi River flood. In response to this confusion, FEMA began releasing a

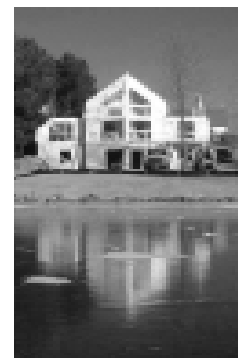
series of Technical Bulletins to address many of the common concerns and perceived disconnects in the regulations.

FEMA Technical Bulletin 7-93 *Wet Flood-proofing Requirements for Structures Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program*, was published in order to provide guidance and establish standards for wet flood proofing in order to minimize flood damage in those limited circumstances where an accessory structure has been granted a variance in accordance with 44 CFR Part 60.6. Generally speaking, these structures should have a water dependent use, be historic in nature, have an agricultural use within wide expansive floodplains, or be a small low cost accessory structure to an existing residential structure, in order to be able to justify the variance. Examples of such structures include boat houses, grain bins, corn cribs or general purpose barns which are open on one side, two car, or smaller, detached garages and small garden/storage sheds.

In some communities and states the thought that every small shed or detached garage in already developed urban residential areas would require a full variance hearing in order to allow for limited wet flood proofing seemed burdensome and unrealistic. In addition, concerns over setting a precedent by granting variances for small structures spilling over into much larger development caused concern for the FEMA Regional office and others. In order to address these valid concerns Technical Bulletin 7-93 allows for the FEMA Region to work with states and communities to allow language to be inserted directly into a community's flood-



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# Mitigation Update

Previous issues of *Floodplain Shoreland Notes* advised that the State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan had been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as meeting the planning criteria for a "standard" and "enhanced" plan per 44 CFR Section 106. Approval of the plan ensured that the State retained its eligibility for certain disaster assistance through the Stafford Act as well as being eligible to receive up to 20% of the estimated federal assistance for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) in the next federally declared disaster. Per regulations the plan must be updated and approved by FEMA every three years. Even though the update won't be required until 2008, and every three years thereafter, the Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) has started to revise and improve the plan. The State Plan is a living document and is never really completed.

Under the federal regulations, local governments and tribal organizations also are required to have an all hazard mitigation plan approved by FEMA in order to

be eligible for federal mitigation funds. Over the past five years, more than \$3.6 million has been provided through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP) Programs to assist local governments and tribal governments in their planning efforts. To date 68 jurisdictions have or are developing all hazard mitigation plans (52 counties, 11 municipalities, and 5 tribal organizations). Thirty-seven plans have been approved by FEMA covering 314 communities and 2,626,732 in population. Once the plans are approved, the participating jurisdictions are eligible to apply for mitigation funds through the PDM and HMGP grant programs for projects identified in the plan.

As part of the State Plan update, information from local capability and risk assessments as well as mitigation strategies will be incorporated into the State Plan. With the first edition of the State Plan, very few local hazard mitigation plans were completed. WEM expects by the time the update is due that there will be nearly 68 plans completed.

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## ***Floodplain and Shoreland Management Notes***

"Floodplain and Shoreland Management Notes" is published by the WDNR, Bureau of Watershed Management. Its purpose is to inform local zoning officials and others concerned about state and federal floodplain management, flood insurance, shoreland and wetland management, and dam safety issues. Comments or contributions are welcome.

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Photographs in this issue were provided by DNR file photos, MMSD file photos and FEMA.

plain management ordinance to directly allow wet flood proofing in very limited circumstances. In FEMA Region V we have established acceptable criteria that comply with Technical Bulletin 7-93 and can be added to a community's ordinance in order to allow limited wet proofing if **all** of the following criteria are met:

1. The accessory structure must be no larger than 500 – 600 square feet in size (typical two car **single** story garage).
2. The accessory structure must have a value not to exceed \$10,000.00.
3. The accessory structure must be anchored to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement;
4. The portions of these structures located below the BFE must be constructed of flood resistant materials;
5. The accessory structure must be designed to allow for the automatic entry of flood waters (permanent openings in at least two walls which are at a ratio of one square inch to every square foot of floor area);
6. Mechanical and utility equipment must be elevated or floodproofed to or above the BFE;
7. It must comply with floodway encroachment provisions of the NFIP Regulations and any state standards (i.e. no more than 2 feet

below the BFE, not in the flood-way); and

8. Its use must be limited to parking and/or limited storage (no workshops or other uses and no storage of hazardous materials below the BFE).

It is important to remember that a community's ordinance must contain all of the provisions before it can start to allow wet floodproofing for accessory structures. In addition, any accessory structure not meeting all of the above criteria will either need to be elevated or structurally dry floodproofed in order for it to be considered a compliant structure under the minimum NFIP standards.

Wisconsin's Model Ordinance has been amended to include the criteria for accessory structures. It is important for local officials to recognize that these are minimum criteria. A community has the authority to be more restrictive in its local ordinance and set minimums for cost and size at lower amounts or mandate all accessory structures meet the same requirements as primary structures. The Model Ordinance can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/flood/communities.htm>.

FEMA Technical Bulletin 7-93 and other floodplain related technical bulletins can be downloaded from FEMA's website at: <http://www.fema.gov/fima/techbul.shtm>.



-Examples of accessory structures

## New Elevation Certificate

FEMA's new Elevation Certificate (EC) was approved for use, effective February 13, 2006. Elevations certified on or after January 1, 2007, must be submitted on the new form and include photographs. The new form has been revised and now requires the certifier to provide the square footage of the enclosed area below the elevated floor and at least two photographs of the building, if the EC is being used to obtain flood insurance.

The Elevation Certificate (FEMA Form 81-31) is an important administrative tool of the NFIP. It is used to determine the proper flood insurance premium rate. It can also be used to document elevation information necessary to ensure compliance with local floodplain management regulations. The EC can also be used to support a request for a Letter of Map Amendment or a Letter of Map Revision based on fill.

While the EC is not required for documenting compliance with state and federal floodplain development standards, it makes sense to use it since the EC meets all applicable standards for technical documentation, is a widely used and accepted documentation method, and most reputable survey and engineering firms are already using it.

Several changes have been made to the EC form. These include:

- The format of the EC has been modified slightly to include all building description related items in Section A, dedicating Section C to building elevation information.
- The instructions of the new form have been modified to reflect the changes and to provide better guidance for completing the form.
- Two pages have been added for attaching two or more color photographs of the building. Photographs must be a minimum of 3" x 3" and may be digital or analog.

- A new EC is included, including eight building type diagrams for determining reference levels.

It is the community's responsibility to ensure that all ECs – whether or not it's a FEMA form - are completed correctly and completely. Local officials should take the time to carefully proofread the materials submitted, checking for such common mistakes as a wrong flood map index number, panel date or diagram number. If inaccuracies are found, the applicant should be asked to submit a corrected EC before approving any building or zoning permits. **Remember, much of the information on the form is certified by a licensed professional; you should not make any changes before consulting with the applicant.**

A commonly asked question is if the elevation of the foundation was surveyed when poured and no other changes have been made to the structure, is a final EC required after construction is completed?

Yes. Once construction is finished, the community must get "as built" elevation information to determine if the building complies with all regulations. Data must be submitted by a registered land surveyor, engineer or architect. This information must be obtained before an occupancy permit is issued. Never assume that construction will always follow the permit conditions. The most effective way to ensure compliance is to inspect the building frequently during construction. A series of three inspections is recommended for any floodplain development:

1. Before ground is broken, inspect the site to verify that the site conditions and elevations in the permit application are consistent with actual ground conditions.
2. Inspect again after the foundation footings have been poured to ensure that

# Floodplain Zoning Ordinance Update

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have recently revised the Wisconsin model floodplain zoning ordinance. This revision was done to incorporate changes to conform to recent administrative code changes in NR 116, Wisconsin Supreme Court cases, and minimum standards of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations found in 44 CFR, Part 60. These model ordinance changes have been reviewed and approved by FEMA's Chicago Regional Office.

Due to the large number of Wisconsin communities participating in the NFIP (over 500), the WDNR is prioritizing the update process for the new ordinance based on such factors as recent presidential disaster declarations, current population and anticipated population growth, age of current ordinance, and timing for new preliminary floodplain mapping.

Communities affected by flooding in 2001 were notified by letter in August, 2004. Three more rounds of letters were sent out in 2005 and 2006 to other communities deemed a priority. A fifth round of letters will be sent out in April, 2007. Communities which are in the process of receiving updated flood maps are informed of the need to amend their ordinance during the Flood Map Open House held for all local officials in the county affected.

Communities participating in the NFIP must have a floodplain zoning ordinance that complies with both federal and state requirements. Failure to do so could result in suspension from the NFIP. If a community is suspended from the NFIP, it is subject to the provisions of Section 202(a) of Public Law 93-234. This section prohibits federal officers or agencies from approving any form of loan, grant, guaranty, insurance, payment, rebate, subsidy, and disaster assistance loan or grant,

for acquisition or construction purposes within floodplain areas. For example, this would prohibit the issuance of federally-backed mortgage loans, the approval of most conventional mortgage loans, federally connected financing for acquisition, construction, repair, or rehabilitation of buildings, and the granting of federal disaster aid for flood-related disasters in the Special Flood Hazard Area. Flood insurance would not be available anywhere within the community.

It is important for communities receiving updated flood maps to be aware that the time frame for adopting an amended ordinance is set by FEMA. A community has six (6) months from when the Letter of Final Determination is issued to adopt an amended ordinance.

All proposed ordinance changes must be reviewed and approved by WDNR prior to adoption by the local community. An ordinance checklist has been developed for community use in order to speed this review and approval process. The checklist can be used as a guide for revising ordinances which do not follow the standard model. It includes a list of the model ordinance requirements and sections along with space for the local section, page and any comments. The checklist should be included with any ordinance sent to the WDNR for review. This document may be found at: <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/flood/communities.htm>.

Another way of reducing the time needed to review an ordinance is by submitting it and the checklist to the WDNR in electronic format. Also, if a community makes any changes to the model ordinance, a summary of the changes should be included.

WDNR regional and central office staff will be available to provide technical assistance to local officials during the

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# Flood Map Modernization Affects Everyone

## PROTECT AGAINST THE HIGH COSTS OF FLOODING

Flooding is the number one natural disaster in the United States and has increasingly been a topic in the headlines in recent years. While the record hurricane season of 2004 and catastrophic season of 2005 definitely made front page news, flooding occurs throughout the country..... and throughout the year. Though hurricanes do cause flooding and their dramatic impacts make the news, floods can also be a result of slow moving storms, quickly melting snow, water backup due to inadequate or overloaded drainage systems, dam or levee failure, etc. Flooding is traditionally associated with the spring and summer months, however, winter storms and rains can create just as much damage. For example, from November 2005 through April 2006, federal disasters involving floods were declared in 8 states west of the Mississippi River, and resulted in more than \$122.8 million in flood claims being processed.

And when floods occur, homes and businesses are damaged in areas prone to high risk of flooding, as well as, low and moderate risk areas. In fact, about one out of four claims filed with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) have occurred in the low- and moderate risk areas. So, everyone is potentially at risk. But financial protection through the purchase of flood insurance is easily available in the NFIP's 20,200+ participating communities through local insurance agents, with over 85 companies writing the insurance on behalf of the federal government. Homeowner's insurance policies do not provide coverage for flooding damage. Flood insurance can be written for properties located in high, moderate or low risk areas. The average NFIP premium is about \$500 per year and there are currently 5.3 million NFIP flood insurance policies in force.

## FLOOD ZONES, MAPS and FLOOD INSURANCE

To determine in what flood zone a home or business is located, an insurance agent or lender (or their servicer) will utilize one of FEMA's (Federal Emergency Management Agency's) flood hazard maps to identify the flood risk. If the flood zone determination is being performed for a closing, and the results indicate that the building is in a high-risk zone (known as a Special Flood Hazard Area) and the loan is through a federally-regulated lender, then flood insurance will be required at closing. (Unfortunately, a recent study by RAND Corporation indicated that just over half of the properties in high-risk areas in the US are *not* covered by flood insurance.)

Because these flood hazard maps, also known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), indicate areas at risk to flooding, they are important tools in the effort to protect lives and properties across the United States. Many of these maps currently in use were developed in the early days of the NFIP and require updating. Over time, water flow and drainage patterns may have changed dramatically due to surface erosion, land development and natural forces. Consequently, a community's flood hazard maps may not accurately portray the current flood risks.

## WHAT IS FLOOD MAP MODERNIZATION?

Recognizing the need for more reliable flood hazard maps nationwide –and at the urging of a coalition of many stakeholder associations- Congress approved the multi-year Flood Map Modernization ("Map Mod") effort to update these maps and transform them into more reliable, easy-to-use, and readily available digital products. As a result, Map Mod is enabling communities, citizens and stakeholders to more efficiently obtain flood hazard data, learn their flood risk, and

make more informed decisions about land development, floodplain management and mitigation projects that limit damages in future flooding events. Ultimately, this effort will result in safer communities. The current goal of Map Mod is to produce digital flood maps to cover 92% of the population of the United States and 65% of its land area by 2010. As of December 2006, 48% of the U.S. population has digital GIS flood data and 23% of the U.S. population has effective flood maps that meet quality standards.

Regarding residents and businesses, re-mapping of their communities will provide them with up-to-date, reliable, Internet-accessible information about their flood risk on a property-by-property basis. By showing the extent to which areas in their community are at risk for flooding, the new flood maps will help these home and business owners to understand their current flood risk and make more informed financial decisions about protecting their property. (Perhaps the number of people financially protected in high-risk areas with flood insurance will increase!)

Using the latest mapping technology, incorporating the most recent data in current models, and delivering it in a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based format will not only allow the digital maps to be updated more easily and less costly in the future, but also provide the most accurate picture of the current flood risk. This means that many flood designations will change with the new flood maps. It is important that community residents and business owners know their flood risk and understand how these map changes will affect their flood insurance requirements. Property owners may learn that their flood risk is lower or higher than they thought. So, it is important they stay informed throughout the mapping process.

### **STAYING INFORMED THROUGHOUT THE MAPPING PROCESS**

Typically, when a community goes through a remapping, the preliminary

maps are officially presented to the community and that community holds public meetings for the citizens to learn about the changes. A 90-day period then follows which allows for interested parties to file an appeal or protest to the maps. The community must provide documentation that is the most recent scientific information proving that the specific portion of the map is not accurate. Once all of the appeals and protests are addressed, FEMA will issue a Letter of Final Determination, which basically gives the community six months to pass an ordinance that adopts the new flood maps and related flood insurance studies. Once those six months are up, the new flood maps become effective. It is at this time that any changes in flood zones –and hence new flood insurance requirements- become effective. Consequently, it is important that anyone involved in the sale or purchase of a property with a structure on it, stay updated throughout this whole process. This will help ensure a smooth closing and no surprises concerning a change in flood zone and the sudden need for flood insurance at the last moment; or even worse, the buyer walking away from the sale because they learn at closing that the property is in a high-risk area.

### **KNOWING YOUR FLOOD RISK**

As mentioned earlier, when a property owner is mapped into a high-risk area (noted on the flood maps with the letters “A” or “V”) and they have a loan through a federally-regulated lender, they will be required to carry flood insurance. This often translates in the owner’s mind as meaning high costs for flood insurance; however, it is important that they know their options. If a building is redrawn into a high-risk area, there actually are lower-cost options available through the NFIP’s “Grandfathering” rule. This “Grandfathering” rule was created to recognize policyholders who built in compliance with the flood map in place at the time of construction or who have maintained continuous coverage. As a result, they can utilize the

flood insurance rates for the zone in effect at the time the building was built or when coverage was taken out, respectively.

If the building on a property is remapped from a high-risk zone to low- or moderate-risk zone -noted as "X" on the flood maps-, the flood risk is reduced **but not removed**. Though these properties do not have a federal requirement for flood insurance, there is still risk for flooding. As mentioned earlier, FEMA statistics show that 20-25% of flood claims occur in moderate- and low-risk zones. Property owners may qualify for the lower-cost flood insurance policies, known as Preferred Risk Policies, with premiums starting as low as \$112 a year for building and contents coverage.

If the building on a property remains in the same zone, residents and business owners should be encouraged to contact their insurance agent to review what coverage options offer the best protection for their property.

#### STAY INFORMED

By better identifying the current risk, Flood Map Modernization will result in safer communities across the U.S. It is

important that businesses involved in the sale and purchase of properties (i.e. title companies, lenders, real estate agents, property appraisers, insurance agents) stay informed throughout their local re-mapping process. This will allow them to be a resource to their clients by helping their clients understand the property-of-interest's current flood risk, if and how it will be changing, and help ensure it is then properly financially protected. For more information about flood map modernization and flood insurance:

- FEMA Web site on Mapping: [www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/mm\\_main.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/mm_main.shtm)
- For general information about flood insurance: [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov)
- Specific mapping questions: FEMA Mapping Assistance Center 1-877-FEMA-MAP
- FEMA's Map Service Center's website at [www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov) or call 1-800-358-9616.

1 The National Flood Insurance Program's Market Penetration Rate: Estimates and Policy Implications; Lloyd Dixon, Noreen Clancy, Seth A. Seabury, and Adam Overton. Rand Corporation, February 2006, pg xii.

## DNR Website for Mapping Status - Open Houses

The Department of Natural Resources has developed a website to provide communities and others with information regarding the Flood Map Modernization Program in Wisconsin. The website contains information on project status, the public open house schedule, the comment and appeal process, post "preliminary map" process and other mapping related issues.

Links to FEMA's website are included. The FEMA sites are for information on Letters of Map Change and the Map Service Center.

For further information regarding the Flood Map Modernization Program contact:

Amanda Schwoegler - Process Issues  
[amanda.schwoegler@dnr.wi.state.us](mailto:amanda.schwoegler@dnr.wi.state.us)

Bob Watson - Technical Issues  
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Eric Kuklewski - FEMA  
[eric.kuklewski@dhs.gov](mailto:eric.kuklewski@dhs.gov)

The website is located at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/flood/mapping.htm>.





## Charting the Course: New Perspectives in Floodplain Management

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) will conduct its 31st annual national conference June 3-8 in Norfolk, VA. Join other government officials, planners, engineers, consultants, watershed managers, educators and others for the most comprehensive floodplain management conference. This year's theme, "Charting the Course" is a relevant theme in keeping with the unique nautical legacy of Norfolk. For floodplain managers

this theme means tracking the progress and making critical decisions for approaching storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other such tempests; and monitoring the increasing trends in human migration and development in flood-prone areas. This important event can be an opportunity to participate in national dialogue and work with other professionals to make sustainable floodplain management and disaster-resilient communities a reality.

The brochure and registration forms can be found on the ASFPM website at: [www.floods.org/Norfolk](http://www.floods.org/Norfolk). Just click on the 2007 conference logo and follow the registration link.

The Early Bird Deadline for registration for the ASFPM Annual Conference is April 15, 2007. Registration after this date will be an additional \$75.



## 2007 Conference

The 5th annual Wisconsin Association of Floodplain, Stormwater and Coastal Managers conference will be held November 7-9, 2007 in Appleton, Wisconsin. The focus of the conference will be sustainable flood, stormwater and coastal management solutions in Wisconsin. The deadline for abstracts is June 30, 2007. Contact Tom Ganfield, Program Co-chair at [tganfield@baxterwoodman.com](mailto:tganfield@baxterwoodman.com) for information on abstract submittal. Information on the conference can be found on the WAFSCM website: <http://www.floods.org/StatePOCs/stchoff.asp>. See page 10 for WAFSCM membership application form.

## New Floodplain-Shoreland Publications

***Living in the Floodplain: What You Need to Know - Who You Need to Know*** - A brochure describing the risks and requirements for building or purchasing a building in the floodplain. The brochure includes information on development standards, non-conforming structures, flood insurance and commonly used acronyms and definitions. Copies can be ordered by contacting the DNR at 608-267-7694 and requesting publication DNR Pub-WT-851 2006.

***Wisconsin Guides to the Planning Elements: Implementation Element Guide*** - A guide to preparing the implementation element of a local comprehensive plan. September 2006, Center for Land Use Education, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The implementation element gives decision-makers, land owners, non-profit organizations, and others a road map to move that plan to action; serves as a prioritized, master "to do" list for the community; and can ensure that the completed plan is a useful community planning guide. The guide is available with full-color front and back covers and as a printable version with white covers. Can be downloaded from <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/elementguides.html>.

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the lowest floor will meet the elevation requirements.

3. Do a final inspection and obtain the as-builts (EC) to determine if all floor elevation heights are in compliance. When this final inspection has been completed satisfactorily, the occupancy permit (or certificate of compliance) can be issued.

An electronic version of the form and instructions is available on the FEMA website, <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/elvinst.shtm>. The EC form and instruction packet are also available from the FEMA Distribution Center at 800-480-2520 (ask for FEMA Form 81-31). It was also produced in the May 1, 2006 NFIP Flood Insurance Manual.

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review and adoption process. The WDNR regional floodplain specialist will be listed on the letter with contact information for assistance. For assistance from the Central Office, contact:

Gary Heinrichs, 608-266-3093,  
[Gary.Heinrichs@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Gary.Heinrichs@dnr.state.wi.us)  
 Miriam Anderson, 608-266-5228,  
[Miriam.Anderson@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Miriam.Anderson@dnr.state.wi.us)

The model ordinances are available at:  
<http://dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/flood/communities.htm>.

More specific information on ordinance adoption procedures is available at:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/flood/documents/OrdAppProcs.pdf>.

More information on the NFIP is available at: <http://www.fema.gov/fima/nfip.shtm>.



## WAFSCM Membership Application/Renewal Form

For January 2007 - December 2007  
 Membership Fee: \$20.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Ext: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Would you like to receive occasional announcements, newsletters and/or notices via e-mail:  Yes  No

Other affiliations: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Interest:  Floodplain  Stormwater  Coastal

Specific Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a check for the annual Membership Fee of \$20.00 made payable to WAFSCM.

Return to: Roxanne Gray  
 WAFSCM  
 c/o Wisconsin Emergency Management  
 2400 Wright Street  
 Madison, WI 53707-7865

If you have questions, call Roxanne Gray at (608) 242-3211 or [Roxanne.gray@dma.state.wi.us](mailto:Roxanne.gray@dma.state.wi.us).

# DNR Staff Changes

## **Meg Galloway—Watershed Management**

Meg has been recently appointed the Chief of the Dams and Floodplain Section in the Bureau of Watershed Management. As the State Dam Safety Engineer, she provided management for the dam safety program and was co-leader of the department's Dams and Floodplain Team. In her new position, she will continue work with the dams program but will also overall responsibility for the floodplain management program. Meg has represented Wisconsin at the national level serving on the Board of Directors for the Association of State Dam Safety Officials for eight years, including a term as President of that organization. She has also served on FEMA's National Dam Safety Board of Review. Contact Information: Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921, (608) 266-7014.

## **Miles Winkler—Watershed Management**

Miles was recently hired as the Water Regulation & Zoning Engineer for the Northeast Region. He will provide dam safety, floodplain management, and engineering assistance to the Water Regulation Program. His specific area of coverage will include Brown, Calumet, Door, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie and Shawano Counties. Contact information: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54307, (920) 662-5195.

## **Michelle Schneider—Watershed Management**

Michelle was recently appointed as the Water Regulation & Zoning Engineer in the Waukesha office. As a former Water Supply Engineer in Madison, she served as the Capacity Development Coordinator for Wisconsin, conducted reviews of water system plans and served as the electronic sanitary survey expert. In her new position, Michelle will serve as the Department contact in the Southeast Region for dam safety and floodplain issues. Contact information: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 141 NW Barstow, Room 180, Waukesha, WI 53188, (262) 574-2100.

## **Richard Wedepohl—Watershed Management**

Richard has finally retired after 35 years with the DNR. His last day in the office was April 2, 2007. During his career, he worked in the Wastewater Program, Lakes Program, Endangered Resources, Nonpoint Source Planning and Dam Safety, Floodplain and Shoreland Management. He was appointed Section Chief for DSFSM in 1997. Meg Galloway is now the new Section Chief (see above). Richard plans to spend his retirement hunting, managing some woodlands and providing much appreciated retirement advice to other DNR employees.

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There was \$100 million available nationwide for the 2007 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDM-C) Program for mitigation planning and project grants. In reviewing the PDM-C sub-grant applications the State followed the criteria as outlined in the State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan. Based on those criteria, the State submitted an application for \$1.8 million that included ten planning and two project sub-grants plus state management costs. FEMA will make pre-award notifications based on the National Evaluation later this spring (2007).

WEM has administered over \$49 mil-

lion in mitigation grants over the last 15 years. The National Institute of Building Sciences completed a study last year that estimated for every \$1 spent in mitigation, there will be \$4 in future avoided damages. Flood related grants are the most cost-effective with \$5 in avoided damages for every \$1 spent in mitigation. Through the Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Team, WEM coordinates with state and federal agencies as well as other organizations to further mitigation statewide.

For more information regarding the State's hazard mitigation program, contact Roxanne Gray, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at 608-242-3211, or e-mail [Roxanne.gray@dma.state.wi.us](mailto:Roxanne.gray@dma.state.wi.us).

# Floodplain and Shoreland Management Notes

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