

# High Waters

*A publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association*

A Quarterly Newsletter

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## Spring Workshop

The Spring 2017 NMFMA Workshop and Conference is coming up April 18-21, 2017 at the Isleta Resort and Casino. Loretta Hatch is your conference director.

<http://www.isleta.com/>



## FROM THE CHAIR



I hope you are planning to take some time off to spend with family and friends this holiday season. With 2016 winding down, I wanted to take some time to highlight our successes this year and the exciting activities that we have in store for 2017.

Our Turn Around Don't Drown (TADD) road sign initiative was a huge success! With help from EDAC and NMDHSEM, NMFMA distributed 150 TADD road signs to communities across New Mexico. TADD signs are an effective measure to promote flood safety during flooding and monsoon events. EDAC is hosting an interactive web mapping tool illustrating all the low water crossings that now have a TADD sign installed (<https://edac.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=13d7a67071a5465e91ed01ceaad25433>). Thank you for all involved in this important initiative and making it a great success. We have almost 500 TADD signs

installed across New Mexico since kicking off this initiative several years go.

We are in the process of compiling all the great art work created by students (grades 3-6) that were submitted by our membership from all across the state that will comprise of our 2017 Turn Around Don't Drown Calendar. We plan to have the calendar created this month for distribution in January. Thank you for all involved in this grass roots initiative of educating our citizens about the dangers of flooding.

Both our spring and fall conference workshops in Santa Fe and Deming were a big success with great attendance. The programs were top notch with informative and engaging presenters that provided an invaluable opportunity to share projects and lessons learned so that we can all become more knowledgeable in floodplain management.

Several months ago we finalized another sub-grant agreement with NMDHSEM that will provide funding for: (1) additional TADD signs, (2) one additional Flood Model Simulator, (3) reimbursement for qualified expenses to attend NMFMA workshop conferences, and (4) on-going yearly financial support for the creation of our Flood Awareness Calendar initiative. Both NMDHSEM and FEMA have demonstrated to be important partners in supporting our mission of educating New Mexico and its citizens on floodplain management. This additional funding will keep our initiatives rolling in 2017 and the Board is always open to new ideas that NMFMA can implement to align with our mission and strategic goals. We also are planning several training opportunities in 2017 for our membership similar to the 4-day FEMA 273 Floodplain management course held in Albuquerque last month.

I also want to recognize Bill Borthwick, New Mexico State Floodplain Coordinator, who is planning to retire at the end of this year. On the behalf of NMFMA, I would like to thank Bill for all his contributions during the past 15 years to NMFMA and the State of New Mexico.

In closing, I would like to invite you to become more involved in NMFMA in 2017 to continue to advance our mission and goals and for us to be more knowledgeable floodplain managers. I thank you for your continued valuable work and attention to this announcement. I wish you a joyous holiday season with your family and friends.

-David Turk, CFM

# TIME OUT FOR FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT!

When I was a youngster I spent a lot of time in *Time Out*. The good news is that my mother still loved me and always rescued me from solitary confinement. 33,280 hours is time I have invested in Floodplain Management in the State of New Mexico. Malcom Gladwell, author of “Outliers The Story of Success” points out that for one to be proficient in their jobs it takes 10,400 hours. This time is exactly five years. If you do the math you will find that at 2,080 hours per year, I have represented you in floodplain management for 16 years.

Let’s take some time out and examine what you folks have accomplished during my tenure. Sixteen years ago we had 12 Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) in the State. Today we have 185 CFMs. The credit for this growth goes to the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association (NMFMA) its’ Boards, its’ Committees, and you members.

If we go back in time, we had 75 communities in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Today we have 103 NFIP communities. 85 communities have had Community Assistance Visits (CAVs) conducted by the State and FEMA Region VI. 212 communities have had Community Assistance Contacts (CACs) conducted by the State and FEMA Region VI.

In my opinion, the most valuable time was the investment in the Silver Jackets Program by the State of New Mexico, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District, FEMA Region VI and NMFMA. This coordinated effort has brought Federal, State, tribal and local stakeholders together to make and to assess state priorities to keep our communities reasonably safe from flooding.

The Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Risk MAP has also helped the State develop non-regulatory products for the 10 counties in the State which are unmapped. These non-regulatory products are not Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). You, as floodplain administrators, can use these non-regulatory products like depth grids or high water marks so you can make determinations if a structure is in a special flood hazard area based on best available data.

As many of you already know, I will be retiring at the end of the year. I won’t take the time just yet to thank all the many friends and associates on this occasion. April 18 to 21, 2017, I plan to attend the NMFMA Workshop being held at Isleta Resort and Casino. Maybe we can share and reminisce about old times together.

Well folks it’s presentation time! Allow me to introduce who will be your point of contact while my agency takes time to hire my replacement. Please see the contact information below.

Enjoy the holidays. Your State Floodplain Coordinator and his ‘*Senior Moment!*’,

- Bill Borthwick, CFM, State Floodplain Coordinator



# Muddy River—Cooper Street Bridge

MOAPA VALLEY, NV

## EROSION CONTROL

**Product:** Gabion and Gabion Mattresses, Non-Woven Geotextiles

### Problem

Moapa Valley in Nevada has a history of flooding and severe storms that date from the early 1900's. Discharges over 8,000 cfs regularly damaged rail road structures were common, 1938 recorded the largest general flood for the Muddy River basin, with peak discharges as high as 15,000 cfs.

Flooding continued over the years. The Clark County Regional Flood Control District and Clark County Public Works eventually designed a flood control plan.

### Solution

GC Wallace Inc. (GCW), a civil engineering firm in Las Vegas, NV, designed the Muddy River—Cooper Street Bridge rehabilitation project that consisted of widening of the Muddy River as a flood control measure to keep the storm flows contained within the channel, adjacent properties and structures were affected when the river swelled up during storm events. This project was the first phase of a much longer plan for river widening to mitigate the flooding along the Muddy River. The Cooper Street Muddy River crossing was a low water crossing



Downstream view of the Channel



Gabions being filled at cutoff walls



January 2005 Flood

Client:

CLARK COUNTY REG. FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

Main contractor:

MEADOW VALLEY CONTRACTORS – LAS VEGAS NV

Designer:

G.C. WALLACE ENGINEERING, LAS VEGAS NV

Products used:

PVC GABIONS, GABION MATS, GEOTEXTILES

Date of construction

AUGUST 2015



Upstream view of new Bridge



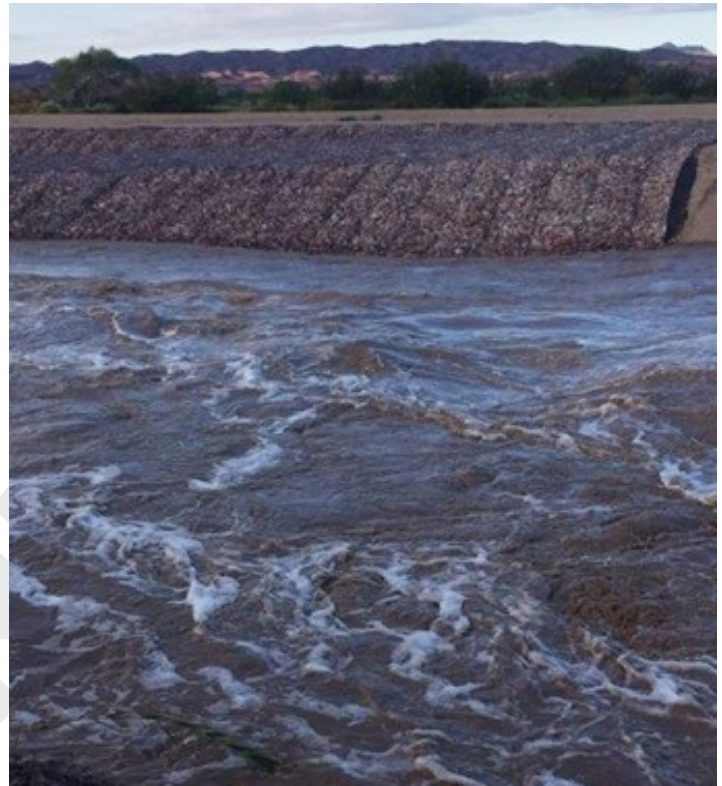
with the river going under the roadway through concrete box culverts during normal flow. During higher flows or following heavy rain, the flow was over the roadway. The existing river was very narrow and lined with heavy vegetation. The new bridge structure is approximately 20 feet above the new concrete channel invert.

In addition to the concrete structures, gabions from Maccaferri were installed, along with riprap.

The project starts upstream with a trapezoidal gabion mattress channel 359 feet in length, to connect to the concrete channel that transitions from trapezoidal to rectangular, then crosses under the new bridge and transitions back to the trapezoidal shape, with a length of 1,484 feet. The concrete channel downstream connects to a trapezoidal gabion mattress channel that runs for 100 feet, then continues with riprap bank protection for about 1,130 feet on the east bank and about 2,050 feet on the west bank."

The Maccaferri gabion mattresses were placed over a layer of Type II gravel. The gabions are PVC coated, and on this project they were connected with stainless steel Spenax rings to withstand the inimical soils of the area. A nonwoven geotextile (Maccaferri MacTex N47.1) was installed underneath the gabions and mattresses.

Nearly 6,900 cubic yards of Maccaferri 1.5-foot-thick gabion mattresses were used for the channel linings and about 1,300 cubic yards of 3-foot-tall gabions were used for the cutoff walls at the beginning and transition of the channel and toe of riprap bank protection.



Flood of 10/19/15, After project was complete



Project Design

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Maccaferri operates under strict quality assurance and management procedures. Please visit the website of your local subsidiary for details of their Certifications.



## New Mexico Certified Floodplain Managers

The CFM exam has been proctored twice since the last newsletter, once at our Fall workshop in Deming and once at the FEMA 273 class in Albuquerque. Three out of 16 passed the exam in Deming and 7 out of 16 passed in Albuquerque. A list of those who passed is on our web site. It is typical that more people pass the exam after taking the FEMA 273 course. This is not an easy test and passing it requires a fairly well rounded knowledge of floodplain management. It is advised that you study available materials and gain some experience before taking the exam. The FEMA 480 is an excellent study guide and attending the NMFMA workshops twice a year is a good way to learn about the different aspects of floodplain management and visit with other floodplain managers from around New Mexico about their experiences. NMFMA workshops are held every April and September. Check our web site for information about the workshops as it becomes available.

Renewal reminders are sent out for 2 different reasons. Every December 1 and 31, each member is emailed a reminder that their NMFMA membership is due for renewal. These email reminders are sent out by our web site manager, Club Express. The annual fee for membership is \$35. Once every 2 years each CFM is emailed a reminder that their CFM is due for renewal. This reminder comes from me ( [nmcfm@cableone.net](mailto:nmcfm@cableone.net) ) The bi-annual renewal fee for CFM is \$25. If your CFM renewal date falls in January, you will get 2 reminders, so be sure not to get them confused.

Don't forget that the continuing education credit requirements for maintaining your CFM have changed. You are still required to earn at least 16 CECs during each 2 year period, but you no longer are required to earn CECs every year. The CFM Program is explained in the Charter, which can be found on the NMFMA web site on the Certification page and also in the Resource Library.

For any CFM who wants to pay for CFM renewal online, go to the Event Calendar and pull up the last day of the month when your CFM is due (January or July). Click on CFM Renewal and fill out the form as though you were registering for a conference. The fee is automatically calculated. If you renew before the deadline of January 1 or July 1, the fee for renewal is \$25. If you wait until after the first, the fee is \$25 plus a \$25 late fee, or \$50. Renew your CFM as soon as you get my reminder letter. Waiting until after the end of the month will result in decertification.

The CFM exam is proctored at each NMFMA conference/workshop. If you are interested in taking the exam, please remember that no matter what paperwork or on-line registration you submit for any specific workshop, class, or other function, **YOU MUST SUBMIT A CFM EXAM APPLICATION PACKET** to the Certification Board before you can be scheduled to take the exam. The packet is downloadable from the Certification page of the NMFMA website. The Application Packet should be mailed to the Roswell address noted in the packet, or emailed to me at [nmcfm@cableone.net](mailto:nmcfm@cableone.net) . Let me now if you have any questions.

-Grant Pinkerton, CFM  
CFM Program Administrator

# Message from the conference committee

The Conference Committee has begun monthly conference calls with future Conference Directors and Program Directors. These calls will continue with the initial focus on the next conference.

The Conference Committee is passing along, to future Conference and Program Director's, information gleaned from the conference surveys included in the conference packets in an effort to provide training that is important and relevant to the membership.

Currently Workshop/Conferences are scheduled for:

1. April 18-21, 2017 in Albuquerque at the Isleta Resort and Casino. Loretta Hatch is the Conference Director. Nicole Friedt is the Technical Track Program Director and the Non Technical Track still needs a program Director.
2. September 19,22, 2017 Angel Fire Resort, Angel Fire. The Conference Director is Burl Smith. We are in need of a Program Director for this Workshop/Conference.
3. April ???, 2018. Santa Fe. Michael Garcia is the Conference Director. Nicole Friedt is the Technical Track Program Director and the Non Technical Track still needs a Program Director.

The Conference Committee is seeking a location and Conference Director for September 2018. In addition we need Program Directors for Non Technical Tracks for Spring 2017 and 2018 and a program Director for Fall 2017.

If you have an inclination to take on one or more of these positions please do two things:

1. Go to the Conference Committee page on the website and check out the conference manual. It will give you an idea of what you will need to do.
2. Contact anyone on the Conference Committee to express your interest. The Conference Committee is Mike Czosnek, Grant Pinkerton and Michele Truby-Tillen

-Mike Czosnek, CFM



# GIS COMMITTEE REPORT

As the newly appointed GIS Committee Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Eric Nemeth for his years of service and all he has done to get the GIS Committee to where it is today. I look forward to building on the successes and continuing to better serve the GIS community in New Mexico.

GIS Committee – Vinay Achrekar  
(505) 855-7430  
[vinay.achrekar@aecom.com](mailto:vinay.achrekar@aecom.com)

We recently updated the NMFMA GIS Committee webpage with the following information:

## GIS Committee Meetings:

The committee holds bi-monthly meetings to coordinate and align GIS use and its application along with exchange of relevant information between NMFMA members. The main objectives of the GIS committee are:

- To promote and advance GIS adoption within the NMFMA community.
- To work collectively with State, County and City Government to review and improve their GIS needs.
- To promote GIS training and share GIS resources among community members

If you are interested in attending one of these meetings, then please send an email to the GIS Committee Chair to be added to the meeting invitee list.

## GIS Training:

The NMFMA GIS Committee can organize Esri training if there are enough members to make the course cost-effective. Training can be conducted on-site or with a web-based Esri instructor. Self-paced, web based training can also be undertaken for those who cannot be available on-site. If you are with State, County, or City Government in New Mexico and are interested in a specific GIS course or training, then please contact us. We will work out a schedule and a list of courses for those who want to attend.

## GIS Certification and Degree Programs:

Links to local college programs (CNM) and GISP certification information are available.

## State of New Mexico Floodplain Mapping Status:

Interactive web mapping link to learn more about NM counties mapping status, National Flood Insurance Program status, and Community Rating System status.

## GIS Resources:

Some links to publicly available geospatial data for New Mexico

## News and Current Events

We have also updated the News and Current Events page with information regarding FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Continuing Education Opportunities between January 30 - February 2 , 2017.

E194 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts  
January 30 - February 2 , 2017  
12 CECs for CFMs

**Application Deadline: December 16, 2016**



# Purpose of the NMFMA

1. To promote public awareness of proper floodplain management;
2. To promote the professional status of floodplain management and secure all benefits resulting there from;
3. To promote a liaison between individual concerns with proper floodplain management and to encourage the exchange of ideas;
4. To keep individuals concerned with proper floodplain management well informed through education and professional seminars and to provide a method for dissemination of information, both general and technical;
5. To inform concerned individuals of pending floodplain legislation and other related management matters, and;
6. To study and support legislation pertinent and necessary to the effective implementation of floodplain management matters.

## Executive Board

Chair: David Turk, CFM, GISP  
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