

KANSAS

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

TIPS



December 2023

KEMA Conference 2023

The Kansas Emergency Management Association (KEMA) held their annual conference from September 12-15 in Mulvane, Kansas. Emergency managers attended presentations given by Angee Morgan, Deputy Director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) on state emergency management, Roger Powers, Powers Engineering, on emerging technology for first responders; tactics for leaders during a crisis and communication during a crisis from Joseph Trahan of Trahan and Associates; local emergency planning 101 and spill reporting from Robert Parker of KDEM and Michael Seastrom with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). A presentation was given on preparation, response, and recovery by Sara Magnasco, and Shawnee Montgomery from the American Red Cross. Jon Marr and Cody Charval with Sedgwick County presented on their Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) test that was conducted in 2022. The evenings included social events and an awards banquet. The 2024 conference will also be held at the Kansas Star Event Center in Mulvane, Ks on September 10-13, 2024.

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KEMA Awards Banquet

Floodplain Team Office Hours

The KDA-DWR Floodplain Team is starting community floodplain office hours. This is being rolled out as an opportunity for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating communities, or those interested in the program to join a virtual recurring meeting during designated hours to ask any floodplain mapping or regulatory questions. It is a chance to casually discuss concerns and address questions as they come up outside of formally held meetings, though meetings will continue throughout the floodplain mapping update process. This will give community officials additional time to assist any property owners that may be impacted by mapping changes throughout the multi-year process that is required to produce a new regulatory map. It will also allow for questions on how to use the maps for regulatory purposes and can discuss the community floodplain management ordinance. The more input from communities on local flooding conditions and concerns during the mapping process, the more accurate the maps will be. The first office hours are set for

11:00 A.M. on Monday, December 4, 2023. Click [here](#) to register. Please let us know if this would be beneficial to you, or any other feedback you may have. We hope to see you there!

New Elevation Certificate

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released the new version of the elevation certificate form. The elevation certificate provides elevation information for new structures in the floodplain and is a required document for permitting. The previous form expired on November 30, 2022. All new elevation certificates as of November 1, 2023, are required to be completed on the new form with the expiration date of June 30, 2026. FEMA has implemented several changes throughout the existing sections of the form and added 2 new sections. The majority of changes are expansions to existing sections to help clarify building conditions and help the reviewer to catch errors or possible violations for floodplain management purposes.

Section A has received the most changes, though the information and intent has not changed, only expansions for clarity. A new horizontal datum can be used for latitude and longitude (WGS 84). There is a new question to verify whether there is at least one permanent flood opening on two different sides for enclosures, which is a requirement for compliance. Flood openings have now also been split into engineered and non-engineered openings, with a requirement to add the certificate for engineered openings as an attachment. This should have always been done but was sometimes missed. The total net openings for both are then totaled together. There is a strong recommendation to include four photos rather than just two, when possible. This should be possible in almost every case, due to the ready availability of high-resolution photos.

Section B now has the community name and number separated so that neither will be missed. There is also a new question about the limit of moderate wave action (LiMWA) to help coastal communities with their compliance. The instructions have also been expanded and updated to help the user review or use the form correctly. For example, for line B7, the user is directed to the website rather than a phone number. Be sure to review the instructions when certifying or reviewing a new certificate. The form now includes a shortcut to “Form Instructions” on each page. The instructions pages have a “Return to Form” shortcut as well, for easier navigation between the two.

For sections C and D, there are minor changes. There is a reminder to add information about any needed datum conversions. This was always required, but sometimes missed. There are reminders to review the instructions, as there are illustrations demonstrating where on the building to take the measurements. These have been updated to include more detail. There is now a checkbox to distinguish between natural or finished grade to help with compliance. Section D now includes a line for the certifier’s email address.

Section E for property owners to complete now asks what the measurements are based on, drawings, under construction, or finished construction. Section F for certification also has a new line for email. All signature lines on the form have the built-in pdf signature function that can be used. There is a checkbox for any attachments and a reminder to describe them in the comments.

Section G is for the community official (floodplain administrator) to enter information, either on behalf of the property owner, to make corrections, or to fill in certified elevations from another certified source. G2.b. has been added for when a community official fills out the insurance Section H for a property owner, as Section H is new. Line G3. has been added for when the community official is using the section to make corrections; a checkbox to ensure comments to describe the specific corrections are made. Line G4. has been altered to be a checkbox to verify whether lines G5.-11 are for floodplain management purposes. Line G5. is now for the permit number, followed by G6.-10 for permitting, building, and site information. Line G11. is new to the form, to verify whether a variance has been issued. If so, it must be described in the comments and have the information regarding that approval attached. Lines G11. and G8. will now be a requirement for elevation certificates for communities in the community rating system (CRS) program.

New sections H and I are for insurance purposes only. This can be used to certify a structure’s first floor

height without needing a survey. The first floor height is the first floor above grade and is a rating variable under the flood insurance rating system (Risk Rating 2.0). This was created to lighten the burden of paying for surveys to get a flood insurance policy. To use this section, sections A, B, and I must be completed as well. H1.a. is for the measurement of the top of the bottom floor that is above grade in feet, to the nearest tenth of an inch for diagrams 1A, 1B, 3, and 5-9. H1.b. is the same measurement for diagrams 2A, 2B, 4, and 6-9. Finally, H2. is to certify whether all machinery and equipment is elevated to or above the required floor, depending on the building diagram to receive the machinery and equipment discount. Section I is to certify the information in Section H, with the same basic requirements as the other certification sections.

Find the new elevation certificate form [here](#). The user must right click on the file and save to the device to view and edit. Please also find the new KDA-DWR trainings on the new elevation certificate [here](#).

Governor’s Water Conference 2023

The 2023 Kansas Governor’s Water Conference took place from November 15-16 in Manhattan, Kansas. Attendees were able to attend a pre-conference welcome event on the 14th, followed by the main presentations on Wednesday and Thursday. In the main sessions, attendees heard opening remarks from Connie Owen, the Kansas Water Office (KWO) Director, as well as the mayor of Manhattan, Wynn Butler. This was followed by remarks from the Governor’s office by Governor Laura Kelly. Keynote speakers included Tom Buschatzke from the Arizona Department of Water Resources to inform attendees on working with the Colorado River in the southwest. Additionally, Dr. Peter Gleick, President-emeritus and Senior Fellow of the Pacific Institute spoke on concepts from his book, *The Three Ages of Water*. This was followed by Jasmin Moore, the Inaugural Director of Sustainability and Impact, for Earthjustice, a nonprofit environmental law organization, on some of their work and successes in fighting for environmental justice.

Other presentations included a panel on “Indigenous Voices” featuring Edward Fite who is a Cherokee Nation tribal member and is the Grand River Dam Authority who spoke about water resource projects that the Cherokee Nation has been involved in, as well as Timothy Rhodd of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and their new water tower and funding. Finally, Christina Haswood, a Kansas State Representative presented on tribal and state water issues in Kansas. Another presentation focused on 2D watershed modeling, showcasing Johnson County and Stantec Consulting projects. The State of Kansas switched to 2D modeling for floodplain mapping several years ago, and now Johnson County is following suit. 2D modeling is a more advanced approach than previous methods, using a grid to represent changes on the ground between cross sections rather than relying on interpolation. Other presentations focused on groundwater issues, drought, irrigation, water quality, watersheds, conservation, agriculture, dredging, harmful algae, emerging issues, erosion, municipal water resources, modeling and data, and extreme weather events. Many interesting discussions and networking took place, in addition to a student poster contest. The Governor’s Water Conference is an important opportunity to discuss the successes and challenges of water in Kansas. For more information on the conference, visit the [KWO website](#).



Tom Morey (Stantec) presents on 2D modeling



Governor Laura Kelly gives opening remarks

Training Opportunities

Basics of the NFIP: Part 1

This two-part course is for officials responsible for administrating their local floodplain management ordinance, as well as those who work closely with floodplain management. This is a beginner class and an introduction to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and floodplain management. The focus is on the NFIP and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinance administration and the relationship between floodplain management.

Virtual training to be held on January 17, 2023 from 9:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M. Register [here](#).

Basics of the NFIP: Part 2

This two-part course is for officials responsible for administrating their local floodplain management ordinance, as well as those who work closely with floodplain management. This is a beginner class and an introduction to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and floodplain management. The focus is on the NFIP and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinance administration and the relationship between floodplain management.

Virtual training to be held on January 18, 2023 from 9:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M. Register [here](#).

NFIP 101: Introduction to Floodplain Management (CEC-eligible)

This course is intended for those just beginning a career in floodplain management to provide the skills to administer and enforce floodplain management ordinances, as well as communication techniques to explain the impact of floodplain management decisions on insurance, public safety, and health. It includes an overview of regulations based on types of flood hazards identified, substantial improvement and damage, and the permitting process. Approved for 12 ASFPM CECs. Users must complete all units and knowledge checks to earn a certificate. It can also be taken for no credit as a reference guide or refresher. This free online course can be taken any time and found [here](#).

Find more information about floodplain management from Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources online at:

<http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain>

Email saves money on postage. The electronic newsletter also has links and the photos are in color. In the case that you are getting this newsletter by postal mail and would prefer email please contact Cheyenne Sun Eagle at: cheyenne.suneagle@ks.gov.

To find and register for upcoming training, as well as recordings of previous trainings, please see our new
Floodplain Management Training webpage at:

<https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain/training>

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.

**To find and register for upcoming training, as well as recordings of previous trainings, please see our new Floodplain Management Training webpage at: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain/training>

** Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in training. Persons who require special accommodations must make their needs known at least five working days prior to training. For more information, including special accommodations, please contact Cheyenne Sun Eagle at 785-296-0854 or by email Cheyenne.Suneagle@ks.gov.

Please scan and email your registration to: cheyenne.suneagle@ks.gov

Or mail to:

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
1131 SW Winding Road, Suite 400
TOPEKA, KS 66615

For questions about training, please contact Cheyenne Sun Eagle by email at cheyenne.suneagle@ks.gov or by phone at 785-296-0854. You may also contact Tara Lanzrath by email at tara.lanzrath@ks.gov or by phone at 785-296-2513.

Please help us keep our records current. If the name that appears on this newsletter is for an individual no longer with your organization, please call 785-296-0854 or email cheyenne.suneagle@ks.gov to report the change.

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Kansas Association For Floodplain Management 2024 Conference in Lawrence

The 2024 KAFM Conference will be August 27-28 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Lawrence, Kansas.

Association of State Floodplain Managers 2024 Conference in Salt Lake City

The 2024 ASFPM Conference will be June 23-27, at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**KDA/DWR Water Structures
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