



BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM TO SUPPORT FLOOD RISK REDUCTION

2017 ASFPM Annual National Conference

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Kansas City Convention Center

Kansas City, Missouri

OVERVIEW

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) has built an effective legislative education program that allows us to participate in policy debate through a number of permissible activities.

Being a statewide organization, our efforts seem most effective on the state level. This is not to say, however, that we do not make efforts to build relationships with our federal delegation and to participate in national policy debate when appropriate. In general, we would tend to avoid local politics.

DISCLAIMER

- Each organization is different, operating under different organizational structures and bylaws. Each state law is different. Accordingly, what is permissible advocacy or lobbying activity for one organization may not be for another organization.
- Federal employees and some state and local employees who are members of state associations may need to take special care to be appropriately distanced from some activities, even activities that would otherwise be considered permissible by the tax code.
- Nothing contained herein should be construed as legal, tax or accounting advice. Associations and individuals should consult appropriate professionals as needed.

Three Strategies for a Legislative Success

- Building Relationships by Providing Value
- Focusing on Issue Specific Education
- Finding Triggers to Engage Coalitions



Strategy 1: Building Relationships by Providing Value

- OFMA has developed a number of programs that allow our organization to provide value to legislators, building relationships such that we become known as credible subject-matter experts and have an “in” to make contact on an important issue.
 - OFMA’s Map Change Assistance Program is activated each time new maps are issued anywhere in the state. Roughly at the time of the CCO meeting, contact is made with the federal and state legislators and local elected officials for the affected jurisdictions. A MCAP constituent assistance packet is sent to each office and includes information about flood insurance, updated contact information for local floodplain administrators, the state coordinating office, and OFMA Officers and Regional Representatives.
 - OFMA has sponsored Town Hall Meetings in communities having controversial map changes, serving as a detached third part and providing an orderly forum for constituents, private consultants legislative staff, state coordinating office staff and FEMA Region staff to come together to work on resolving problems
 - In years when we do not have a particular bill on our state legislative agenda, we focus our annual legislative reception on constituent service. This year we provided a “Constituent Assistance Package” to all attendees.

Strategy 2: Focusing on Issue Specific Education

- It would be difficult trying get traction for an effort to provide general flood risk education to legislators and legislative staff.
- Instead, OFMA has focused on developing ad hoc education campaigns that focus on pressing issues.
 - Last year, we conducted education on the issues surrounding NFIP Privatization aimed at the Oklahoma federal delegation. This went beyond letter writing, to include materials we developed that would show a variety of possible impacts on Oklahoma's residents and businessowners.
 - This year, we have focused on educating legislators on the importance of high quality topo in the mapping process, the need to map high water marks immediately following a disaster, and the requirements for substantial damage evaluations. All of these topics were relevant because of a state bill that would have had the unintended consequence of restricting the use of drone technology for survey and disaster response work.
 - We have developed an extensive training curriculum on oil and gas floodplain management, much of which has been used to educate lawmakers on the unintended consequences of a number of bills throughout the years that would have impacted regulation of oil and gas exploration and production activity.

Strategy 3: Finding Triggers to Engage Coalitions

- As a small organization, we lack the resources of other organization with sophisticated lobbying infrastructure.
- We leverage our knowledge and relationships by working with other organizations to form coalitions.
- Often, larger organizations have not analyzed a proposed bill to the extent that they understand the true impacts or the true “unintended consequences”.
- We prepare technical guidance and talking points in advance, making the lobbyists’ jobs easier – and getting results faster. It is always easier to change a bill before it passes out of committee!

An Example of 3 Strategies Coming Together...

- SB 809 was proposed during the 2015 Legislative Session as a request bill from the Oil and Gas Industry. It was a response to the ban on “fracking” by Denton, TX.
- SB 809 originally banned all regulation of oil and gas drilling by local government. No permits or inspections could be required. Any regulation about where drilling would be null and void.
- OFMA realized that this law would potentially cause NFIP participating communities to be out of compliance.
- OFMA got no traction whatsoever with the House and Senate leadership. The bill was being sponsored by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, and there were to be no amendments.
- OFMA began networking. The Oklahoma Municipal League and the Oklahoma Bankers Association were the natural allies on this bill. Another ally soon emerged – through a connection based on past constituent service, the Chair of the House Banking Committee, who happens to own a title company, was willing to listen to our concerns about unintended consequences.
- OFMA also began working other channels. ASFPM wrote a letter in support of our concerns, adding even more credibility. There were a few tense huddles down at Region VI about the “what ifs”.
- Bottom line – we prevailed. The bill was amended, on a motion by the Speaker, minutes before final passage. The amendment was specifically to exempt any regulation necessary for NFIP compliance. The Speaker couldn’t resist taking a shot at OFMA during his motion.
- A front page article in the Tulsa World did not hurt. A big part of the Legislative Director’s responsibility is to know when to involve the media. In this case, we invited the entire Tulsa print and TV contingent to the legislative briefing that was held at our Spring Workshop.



TULSA WORLD

Annual Legislative Reception

- Held each spring during the Legislative Session
- Invitation cards delivered to Capitol by our partners at OWRB
- All OFMA members encouraged to attend and to visit their representatives' offices during the event.
- Detailed packets containing educational materials, contact information, TADD Calendar, etc. are distributed to each attendee.
- Catering is provided by local restaurant familiar with the Capitol – heavy finger foods so as to remain compliant with ethics limits.
- Personal invitations to Sgt. at Arms, Pages, Security, etc.



Bill Tracking and Legislative Updates

- Each January, OFMA begins to read bills and develop a watchlist
- This list is updated as the legislative deadlines pass and the bills progress
- Regular updates are provided to the OFMA Board
- Updates are provided to the general membership as needed, usually when one individual bill is of particular interest to the members
- *Capital Rumbblings* is a regular feature in the Association's newsletter, the B.F.E.

OFMA Legislative Tracking – Fifty Fourth Legislature, Second Regular Session (2024)
Legislation with Potential to Affect Floodplain Management – As of 1/22/2024

Bill Number	Author	Date Effective	Description	Status	Notes
HB 2001	Saldaña	1/1/25	Requires administrative cost to be paid by the holder of a title when a new or amended interest is recorded in the public records of the State.	Referred to the Committee on State Finance	
HB 2022	Walters	1/1/25	Requires a person to be a resident of the State to be eligible to hold office as a member of the State Board of Education.	Referred to the Committee on Education	
HB 2023	Walters	1/1/25	Requires a person to be a resident of the State to be eligible to hold office as a member of the State Board of Health.	Referred to the Committee on Health	
HB 2024	Walters	1/1/25	Requires a person to be a resident of the State to be eligible to hold office as a member of the State Board of Agriculture.	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	
HB 2025	Walters	1/1/25	Requires a person to be a resident of the State to be eligible to hold office as a member of the State Board of Chiropractic Medicine.	Referred to the Committee on Health	
HB 2026	Walters	1/1/25	Requires a person to be a resident of the State to be eligible to hold office as a member of the State Board of Cosmetology.	Referred to the Committee on Health	
HB 2027	Walters	1/1/25	Requires a person to be a resident of the State to be eligible to hold office as a member of the State Board of Dental Hygiene.	Referred to the Committee on Health	
HB 2028	Walters	1/1/25	Requires a person to be a resident of the State to be eligible to hold office as a member of the State Board of Podiatry.	Referred to the Committee on Health	

OFMA OKLAHOMA
 FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION
 SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TO: OFMA Members

OFMA is providing you with a special legislative update to make you aware of pressing developments at the State Capitol that may have significant impacts on floodplain management.

HB 2024, HB 2025 and HB 2026 all appear to contain significant unintended consequences for floodplain management, and despite OFMA's best efforts to make lawmakers aware of these potential adverse impacts, all three bills are rapidly progressing through the legislature.

We have included the following documents for your review. Please feel free to share this information as you feel appropriate.

- Special Legislative Update Briefing
- OFMA's Concerns Position Paper
- Newsroom Package

Please feel free to contact us at info@ofmaok.com for more information on any of these issues.

RECENT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION INITIATIVES

- OFMA's Legislative Education Program really got its start in the years surrounding the passage and retooling of the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act.
- Recently, the program has become much more active at “playing defense” regarding bills that impact floodplain management because of “potential unintended consequences”
- Examples include:
 - Oil and Gas Local Control (3 Sessions)
 - Riparian Buffers/Stormwater Quality Rule Preemption
 - Drone Technology (2 Sessions)
 - Urban Renewal
 - Notice Requirements for SFHA Properties
 - Barricade Law Revisions

QUESTIONS

For additional information, please contact:

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