



FLOODWATCH

Educating, Planning, Protecting

January 2018 The Official Newsletter of the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association

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Top 5 mitigation project types in 2017

1 Acquisition · 151 projects funded · 930 properties approved	2 Elevation · 64 projects funded · 590 properties approved	3 Flood Control · 56 projects funded	4 Safe Room/ Wind Shelter · 103 projects funded · 789 properties approved	5 Utility and Infrastructure Protection · 32 projects funded
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Orleans Parish Prepares to Launch Flood Outreach Campaign

The New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness will soon launch a public outreach campaign to educate residents about flood risk, flood insurance, and low-cost mitigation options. The project hopes to increase the number of residents using risk-reduction measures like green infrastructure and to increase the number of flood insurance policies in the city. Additionally, using CRS creditable messages, the project aims to help ultimately lower premiums parish-wide.

In the past 20 years, New Orleans has seen 42 *flood* events. These aren't hurricanes. They're the heavy rains that happen a few times a year but can still cause significant damage to homes and businesses. Yet recently, the City has seen a drop in insurance policies in areas no longer deemed flood zones in the 2016 newly adopted flood maps.

The City of New Orleans is investing billions of dollars to reduce flooding and its impacts through large-scale green infrastructure projects, home elevations, and drainage upgrades. Through this new outreach program, the City will also proactively communicate what residents can do individually to lessen flood risk and insure against damage on their own properties.

Branded under the City's emergency preparedness campaign, [NOLA Ready](#), the flood outreach project will utilize traditional & digital advertising, boots-on-the-ground community engagement, and engaging marketing materials. First up is the [#ReadyYearRound 2018 calendar](#), featuring emergency preparedness messaging for each month of the year alongside beautiful illustrations by local artist John Clark IV. Flood risk messages are timely. In March, before the rainy season, residents are encouraged to review insurance. In cool months, risk reduction measures like the installation of rain gardens and permeable pavement are suggested. During the rainy summer, residents are reminded how to stay safe in the case of a flood.

Ultimately, NOLA Ready's approach is to reach people where they are using simple, motivating language encouraging them to take action to prepare for future floods and other emergencies.

For more information about the project, contact Laura Mellem, Public Engagement Manager for the New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, lamellem@nola.gov, 504-658-8744. Stay tuned to ready.nola.gov for release in early 2018.

Two LFMA members received Jefferson Parish awards

Contributed by Michelle Gonzales

[The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission \(JEDCO\)](#) celebrated a successful year of economic wins and the implementation of many pro-business initiatives at its annual year-end meeting on Tuesday. The 2017 JEDCO Annual Luncheon sponsored by [Gulf Coast Bank and Trust Company](#) is JEDCO's largest event of the year, providing an opportunity to highlight the organization's successes in front of hundreds of regional business and community leaders. The organization also announced the recipients of its 2017 business awards at the event.

Aimee C. Vallot, the Director of the [Jefferson Parish Inspection and Code Enforcement department](#), was awarded the 2017 Business Retention and Expansion Award, a recognition bestowed upon an organization, individual or company that has been instrumental in the retention of Jefferson Parish jobs and businesses. Aimee's perseverance and dedication to institutionalizing positive and high impact changes to the Parish's permitting process have led to a more streamlined system that has been a benefit to the Jefferson Parish business community. Under Aimee's leadership, the Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement worked to make the permitting application review process more efficient. In addition to that, her team scheduled regular meetings with residential and commercial builders to seek feedback on their processes and they continue to modify software to allow online application filing. Aimee and her team played an important role in the attraction of Sleep Number to Jefferson Parish, providing excellent service

in permitting to meet the national brand's aggressive timeline.



Aimee received a second recognition at the Annual Luncheon. JEDCO's 2017 Chairman of the Board, Bruce Layburn, presented Aimee and Michelle Gonzales, the Jefferson Parish Director of [Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation](#), with the Chairman's Champion Award for their engagement and trans-

parency.

Two LFMA members received Jefferson Parish awards, cont.



Michelle was appointed to Director of Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation in 2013. New Flood Insurance Rate Maps become effective in 2018. Michelle and Aimee have provided regulatory guidance to property owners and local organizations in order to support an easy transition to the new maps. Michelle continues to help property owners navigate complex flood-risk ratings. Their dedication to the community, focus on improving processes, and willingness to accept and act upon feedback from community members make these two women vital assets to the Jefferson Parish business community.

"This group of award winners is indicative of the true talent, innovation and dedication to business found in Jefferson Parish," says JEDCO President and CEO Jerry Bologna. "These individuals and businesses play a crucial role in the continued prosperity of our community. Not only do they work to increase the economic vitality of our region, but they continue to give back and change our community for the better. We are so grateful for their contributions to Jefferson Parish."

Americans depend on our coasts, so we need national flood insurance



The 2017 storm season has been one of the most active in United States history, with 17 named storms and 10 hurricanes, six of which were major category 3 or stronger hurricanes. Earlier this month, the House took a step in the right direction to protect Americans living in vulnerable regions, [voting in favor](#) of a five-year reauthorization bill for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). However, there is much work to be done on the Senate side, both to address concerns remaining in the House package and to make proactive improvements for policyholders to NFIP, so that we ensure the it is available, affordable and sustainable.

Read the full article [here](#).

NFIP/CRS UPDATE—Direct Letters for Policyholders

Earlier this year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began sending letters to policyholders of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The distribution of these letters—known informally as “clear communication letters”—is part of FEMA’s implementation of Section 28 of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014. The Act requires FEMA to clearly communicate current flood risk to policyholders.

To do this, FEMA first required NFIP policies to be updated with current flood map and risk information. Based on that information and how the policy is rated, FEMA is sending out seven different letters to policyholders, including those in CRS communities. The seven categories are:

*** NFIP policyholders whose buildings have been newly mapped into a high-risk flood area fall into category A.

*** NFIP policyholders who pay a standard rate based on a flood zone of moderate to low risk for flooding fall into category B.

*** Those who hold NFIP policies on buildings in high-risk flood areas but whose rates are grandfathered make up category C.

*** NFIP policyholders who have a primary residence that is located in a high-risk flood area but was built before the community adopted its first flood map, and thus are paying a discounted rate, are category D.

*** Those with an NFIP-insured property that was constructed before the community adopted its first flood map—whether non-primary residence, severe repetitive loss property, substantially improved/damaged building, or a business—fall into category E. These policyholders are paying a discounted rate for a building in a high-risk flood area.

*** NFIP policyholders with Preferred Risk Policies—for buildings that have an acceptable flood loss history and are located in areas at moderate to low flood risk—fall into category F.

*** NFIP policyholders whose premium reflects the true flood risk of the building are category G.

According to John Hintermister, FEMA Insurance Examiner, every NFIP policyholder will eventually receive a letter (Letter A, Letter B, etc.) tailored to that policy’s current risk and rating category. Each letter explains the property’s current risk and rating and how the risk relates to the policy premium that is being charged. The letters go out about two months after a policy is issued or renewed.

In the letters, FEMA suggests that policyholders contact their insurance agents to discuss their individual circumstances. For some categories, the letter is accompanied by a flyer that shows different rating options and how to get more information.

“These letters provide FEMA an opportunity to clearly communicate to NFIP policyholders what their current flood risk is and how their policy is rated, and also give information about what their options may be,” Hintermister said. “I encourage policyholders to talk to their insurance agent about their policy regularly.”

Insurance agents and policyholders in your community can find out more information about the letters and the rating review process at this link on FEMA’s website: <https://www.fema.gov/cost-flood-policyholders>. The webpage has a sample of the letter being sent for each category, answers to frequently asked questions, background on the Preferred Risk Policy, and suggestions of ways policyholders can lower their flood insurance premiums.

Tangle of oil pipelines adds to cost of barrier island restoration project



By [Tristan Baurick](#)

tbaurick@nola.com

NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

An already expensive coastal restoration project needed an extra \$2.2 million to deal with unexpected complexities posed by a tangle of buried oil and gas pipelines.

The state-led effort to [rebuild East Timbalier Island](#), part of a chain of barrier islands protecting marshlands in Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes, ran into an extensive network of active and abandoned oil wells and pipelines, much of it poorly mapped.

"It looks like a spiderweb of lines," said Kenneth Bahlinger, the project's manager.

The long and narrow island, about 35 miles southeast of Houma, has one of the highest erosion rates on the Louisiana coast, losing about 70 feet per year in recent decades. Its loss would expose fragile wetlands and hundreds of oil wells in Terrebonne and Timbalier bays to hurricanes and storm surges. The island also protects Port Fourchon, a key land link for many offshore oil and gas facilities.

Full story [here](#).

Story contributed by Darla Duet.

Levee authority may run permanent pumps, gates on Orleans canals instead of S&WB



The [east bank levee authority](#) may agree to step in for the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board to operate the [permanent surge gates and pumping stations](#) under construction at the ends of the 17th Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue canals when their construction by the [Army Corps of Engineers](#) is completed by mid-December, authority and state officials confirmed Tuesday (Nov. 28).

The Southeastern Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East announced it will hold a special meeting on Dec. 6 to consider a motion authorizing its president to negotiate an agreement to operate the stations with the S&WB or the city of New Orleans on its behalf, and the state Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

Full story [here](#).

Story contributed by Darla Duet.

Region VI News

LADOTD is the state COOPERATING TECHNICAL PARTNER (CTP) for Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) in FEMA REGION VI.



On March 11, 2015, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) signed a partnership agreement with FEMA Region VI to become a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) for Risk MAP. This program is managed by Susan Veillon under the direction of the State Coordinator, Cindy O'Neal, for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which resides in the LADOTD Public Works /Water Resources Section within the Engineering Division.

LADOTD selected Dewberry Consultants, LLC through an open solicitation process. Ms. Jerri Daniels is the CTP Project Manager for Dewberry Consultants, LLC. The Consultant will assist LADOTD in the CTP activities as stipulated in the contract.

Since becoming a CTP with FEMA Region VI , LADOTD has been diligently planning and working with FEMA Region VI toward the release of updated flood risk information for Louisiana. LADOTD has made a significant investment in a prioritization tool which is used for prioritizing projects in Louisiana. Dewberry has developed a geospatial tool , the **Project Prioritization Tool Decision Tool** for LADOTD which allows us to efficiently and effectively prioritize and select projects based on key criteria like:

1. FEMA's Risk MAP metrics
2. Meeting specific needs to address known flood risk concerns
3. Knowing where communities have conducted flood studies or produced other relevant data that can be used as leverage and count toward cash-match contributions
4. Knowing which communities are at risk
5. Knowing where the most current LiDAR data exist in Louisiana

The final result is a project ranking list that best addresses the key criteria using the user's selected preferences.

Continued...

Region VI News, cont.

LADOTD is the state COOPERATING TECHNICAL PARTNER (CTP) for Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) in FEMA REGION VI

To date these are the FEMA funded CTP projects and their status:

Year One Projects : FY 16

<u>Project Type,</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>Watershed</u>		
Castor and Little Watershed - Within the limits of LaSalle Parish	Approximate A and limited detailed	On going
Bayou Sara Thompson Watershed	Phase 1, Discovery	On going

Year Two Projects: FY 17

Phase 1, Bayou Teche Watershed	Discovery	TBD
Phase 1, Tickfaw Watershed	Discovery	TBD
Phase 1, Tangipahoa Watershed	Discovery	TBD
Phase 1, Liberty Bayou/ Tchefuncta Watershed	Discovery	TBD
Phase 1, Amite Watershed	Discovery	TBD
West Carroll Parish, Special Project, Flood Information Guide	Community Outreach and Mitigation Strategies (COMS)	TBD

Submitted by:
Susan Veillon

Busy 2017 hurricane season had 'most active' September ever, though Louisiana was mostly spared

[Faimon Roberts](#)

In June, residents across southeast Louisiana got a familiar warning: A storm was coming — time to check generators, supplies and evacuation plans.

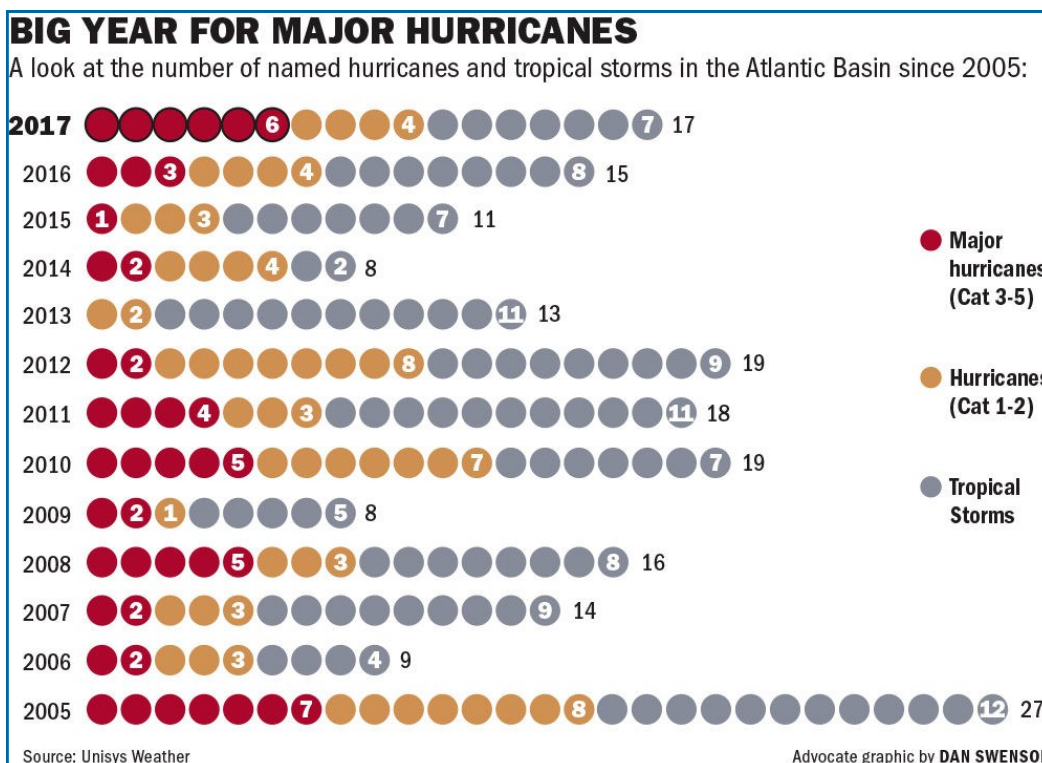
Tropical Storm Cindy was moving through the Gulf of Mexico, an early-season cyclone aimed at the Louisiana coast.

Though Cindy made landfall with more whimper than wallop, it set the stage for an anxious season of tropics-watching, as the Atlantic Ocean churned out 17 named storms, five more than average, including six storms that reached Category 3 or above.

The season that officially closed Thursday was the busiest Atlantic hurricane season since 2005, and it included the busiest single month on record.

Full story [here](#).

Story contributed by Tim Osborn and Darla Duet.



Benefits and Costs of Freeboard

Costs of Building Higher

Under the rules of the National Flood Insurance Program, buildings must be protected to the base flood elevation. Therefore, the cost of freeboard is just the additional cost of building higher than the minimum NFIP standard.

A study conducted by ASFPM Nonstructural/Floodproofing Committee members in February 2017 estimated the approximate cost of building higher for a 2,000 square foot house. The study assumed the house was constructed to NFIP standards and then estimated the additional cost of building higher than the base flood elevation.

Foundation Type	Cost per additional foot
Concrete block piers	\$890
Crawlspace with concrete block walls	\$1,850
Crawlspace with poured concrete walls	\$2,155
Stem wall with fill	\$2,345
Fill only	\$4,470

Using a house on fill with a stem wall (as illustrated on the cover), here are the average construction costs for building higher:

1 foot: \$2,345

2 feet: $\$2,345 \times 2 = \$4,690$

3 feet: $\$2,345 \times 3 = \$7,035$

Costs are lower for other foundations.

Full flyer in printable format [here](#).

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Rodney Edwin Emmer Award Nomination

DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2018



This award is in recognition of meritorious activities in Floodplain Management within the State of Louisiana. The recipient can be a community, organization, or an individual. Nominations for the award can be submitted by any member of LFMA.

Complete the nomination form, found [here](#) and submit to:

Ted DeBaene
LFMA
P.O. Box 64275
Baton Rouge, LA 70896

Or email to tdebaene@owenandwhite.com.

It's Membership Renewal Time!

The membership directory is maintained by James Demouchet.

(318)226-6934 or

jdemouchet@caddo.org

LFMA 2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$50.00

PLEASE REMIT TO:

Louisiana Floodplain Management Association

(LFMA)

P. O. Box 64725

Baton Rouge, LA 70896

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION!

Please complete the following form anytime you have a change in your information.

Company _____ Member _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Contact _____ Phone _____

Title _____ Fax _____

Region _____ Email _____

DUE: FEBRUARY 28, 2018

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Save The Date: April 3 - 4, 2018
Grand Hyatt Hotel | San Diego, CA

The P3 Water Summit Returns This Spring To San Diego!

When critical projects are not financially feasible under your current program, what are the alternative ways of funding them? What options do you have available for your water system.

Across the country communities are choosing partnerships to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain their potable water, sanitary sewer, and drainage/flood mitigation systems. The P3 Water Summit invites system managers to learn more about water project delivery as well as recent and upcoming water projects.

The P3 Water Summit is where the public and private sector will meet in 2018 to discuss water challenges and find solutions. This past year more than 500 water managers and industry leaders met to discuss water project delivery and find solutions to their system challenges.

Learn how water agencies of all sizes have been able to address longstanding challenges in their systems. Discover new project opportunities and partners for your next water, wastewater, or stormwater project.

If you're evaluating major investment or preparing a procurement or trying to address deferred O&M in your system, you'll want to attend this April.

Details on the 2018 program are [here](#). Register today!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LFMA 35th Annual Technical and Business Conference



“Keeping Our Heads Above Water for 35 Years”

Natchitoches Events Center

April 25-27, 2018

750 2nd St.

Natchitoches, LA 71457

	Before March 15		After March 15	
	Member	Non-member	Member	Non-member
Full Conference (Wed, Thurs, Fri)	\$175	\$225	\$185	\$235
One Day (Thursday)	\$115	\$165	\$125	\$175
Spouse/Guest	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Tech Tour	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Walking Tour	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20

Check the [LFMA website](#) for more information!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 17-22, 2018

ASFPM's 42nd annual national conference in Phoenix

"Managing Floods Where the Mountains Meet the Desert"



Click [here](#) for details!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LFMA Summer Workshop

July 27, 2018

Rosa Parks Center

Lafayette, LA



LFMA Fall Workshop

October 5, 2018

St. Charles Parish, in conjunction with “Battle
for the Paddle”

More details coming soon!

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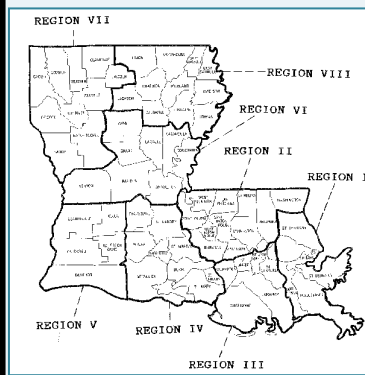
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