

Karen L McHugh, CFM
BIOGRAPHY

Karen McHugh, CFM has over 20 years of experience in public service. She started off in Hancock County, Illinois in 1984 as an elected township assessor, where she assessed all real property in LaHarpe Township. Discovering that she had a talent for such things, she became the Chief County Assessment Officer in Hancock County in 1990, where her duties were many and complex. She instructed all 12 county township assessors to ensure uniformity of function and results, she established working relationships at all levels of government, and composed a wide variety of correspondence including legal notices and news releases. Karen conducted public hearings, acting as a county expert witness during civil and criminal trials. If you add an extensive knowledge of legal descriptions to all of this, you'll begin to get an idea about her duties and responsibilities.

One of the more enjoyable of these was her role as County Floodplain Administrator. She was responsible for issuing floodplain building permits and maintaining detailed documentation. She planned, organized, and carried out all floodplain management during the 1993 flooding event. She was even asked to present her county hazard mitigation plan during professional seminars as an example for statewide use. Her peers appreciated her abilities; the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management presented her with its Floodplain Management Award in 1995.

She moved to Jefferson City, Missouri in 2002, using her property management skills in positions in both the private and public sectors. Her wish to get back into floodplain management was fulfilled in the fall of 2007, when she became one of SEMA's Floodplain Management Officers. She hopes that this is merely the beginning of a long and satisfying relationship. In addition to her many job duties, she is also currently working on a degree in business administration.