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A PAFPM membership gives you access to training, workshops, newsletter, conferences, and networking opportunities.

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Contact us at flood@pafpm.org with questions about membership or visit our [Membership page](#).

Upcoming Events

**Webinar:
Approximate
(Zone A)
Floodplain Water
Surface Elevation
Application for
Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania**

Speaker: Will
Melville, FEMA
Region III

January 14th - 10AM

[Registration](#)

A Note from the Chair

As 2019 winds down and we look forward to a new year, PAFPM is more committed than ever to helping Pennsylvania's communities continue to build capacity and increase safety and resilience in 2020. Each of you has an important part to play in Pennsylvania's future whether you're evaluating permit applications to ensure safe development or performing flood hazard analyses to assist communities with risk awareness. We truly appreciate all that you do and have been grateful for your support over the last decade. We're so excited about our own organization growth and development and increased ability to better serve you in the coming months and years. Our floodplain management family is such an amazing group of people and on behalf of PAFPM, I want to wish you all a wonderful holiday and a very happy new year!

Taryn Murray, CFM
Chair, PAFPM

PAFPM 2019 Annual Conference

Once again, thanks to all of you, our annual conference located in Harrisburg was a big success. The conference included technical sessions, networking opportunities, committee meetings, and an options NFIP Training for Local Floodplain Managers. With speakers from FEMA Region III, PEMA, Penn State, City of Philadelphia, DCNR, American Rivers, USACE, and various consultants, the variety of topics presented in the technical sessions was engaging. Topics included Flood Risk and Impacts; Flood Mitigation; Engineering Solutions, Educational Outreach; Local Floodplain Management.



L-273 Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program

March 16-19, 2020
Whiteland Township, PA

[Registration](#)

CFM Exam

Philadelphia - City

January 24, 2020
9AM – Noon
1401 JFK – 16th Fl
Philadelphia, PA 19102

[Apply here](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

[Registration](#)
Opening Soon at PA Construction Code Academy – unless otherwise noted

CFM Exam: Whiteland Township

March 20, 2020

[ASFPM](#)

L284 Advanced Concepts in Floodplain Management III

City of Greensburg, Westmoreland County July 15-19, 2020

[Registration](#)
[Opening Soon](#)



As always, thanks to our sponsors for helping make this event possible, we couldn't do this without you:



Update from the Mapping and Technical Committee

The Mapping and Technical Committee, chaired by Cleighton Smith of Taylor Wiseman & Taylor, is currently focused on taking a deep dive into the state of the approximate A Zones in Pennsylvania. The original intent of these zones was to reserve them for relatively undeveloped areas. But now they are found in the most densely populated areas of the State.

The current focus of the Committee is to break down the approximate A Zone inventory in PA according to several potentially key parameters, such as:

**State/Local
Floodplain
Ordinance
Training**

January 22, 2020

Intermediate Unit
6, 270 Mayfield
Road, Clarion, PA,
16214

Registration

January 23, 2020

City of Franklin,
Venango Co –
Commissioners Mtg
Room 101, 1174
Elks Street,
Venango Co
Courthouse Annex,
Room 100, Franklin
PA

Registration

**February 18,
2020 1-3pm**

Bedford Co EMA
Training Room 101,
200 S Juliana
Street, Bedford PA

**Flood Insurance
Round Table 1**

Tuesday, April 14,
2020, City of
Latrobe,
Westmoreland
County – Latrobe
City Hall, 901
Jefferson St.,
Latrobe, PA 15650

**Flood Insurance
Round Table 2**

Wednesday, May
20, 2020, East
Stroudsburg,
Monroe County -
East Stroudsburg
University,
Innovation &
Entrepreneurship
Center, Room 336,
562 Independence
Road, East
Stroudsburg PA
18301

- Model-backed
- Population density
- Drainage area
- LOMAs (since most recent map)
- If obtainable, policy and claims information (RL, SRL)

Region III has created an Approximate Floodplain (Zone A) Water Surface Elevation Application for Pennsylvania. This interactive map viewer allows local officials, community planners, floodplain administrators, surveyors, insurance professionals, real estate developers, and citizens to easily access flood water surface elevations (when available) in their community.

PAFPM is hosting a Webinar facilitated by FEMA Region III to provide information about how to access the application and how to use the data provided. Register for this FREE Webinar today! Details below:

***Approximate (Zone A) Floodplain Water Surface Elevation Application.
Will Melville, FEMA Region III
January 14th - 10AM – 11AM [Register Here.](#)***

The Mapping and Technical Committee meets monthly. Want to get involved? For more information contact Cleighton Smith at SmithC@taylorwiseman.com

Update from the Policy and Legislative Committee

The Policy and Legislative Committee met on September 11th immediately following the PAFPM Annual Conference in Harrisburg. At that meeting we discussed our views on the Strategic Plan for Pennsylvania's approach to the NFIP now that PEMA is taking substantial responsibility. We are generally in support and recommended that a longer-term perspective be added to complement the 2- to 5-year approach of the plan. A formal comment was submitted to that effect.

We also agreed to populate the Policy and Legislative webpage on the PAFPM website. There are many previous policy papers that will be represented there, as well as the 2017 study on Flood Insurance Reform funded by the Center for Rural PA and executed by Penn State University.

These activities should lead to PAFPM policy statements and eventually Best Management Practices for local consideration and implementation over the next year or so:

- Development of a County prototype CRS application acceptable to FEMA
- Analysis of the PA Intergovernmental Cooperation Act as a tool for PA local governments to use to improve local NFIP and Pa ACT 166 compliance capacity
- Review of the New Jersey flood elevation grant program project identifying innovative techniques that could be applied to streamline similar projects in PA
- Preparation of a Model No Growth Floodplain Management Ordinance promoting Open Space

The Policy and Legislative Committee meets monthly. Want to get involved? For more information contact Kerry Wilson at willysons@comcast.net or Eric Jespersen at ecj@epix.net

Update from the Education and Outreach Committee

The Education and Outreach Committee, chaired by Josh Lippert, City of Philadelphia, is looking to develop webinars, add content to the PAFPM website, publish a regular newsletter, and create a community mentorship program.

2020 Webinars:

- January 14th: Will Melville (FEMA Region III) – [Approximate Floodplain Water Surface Elevation Application](#)
- March: Historic Property Flood Resiliency
- May: Josh Lippert (City of Philadelphia) – Design Professional Training for Development in the SFHA
- October: NTM Engineering – Stormwater

Do you have a webinar idea or a training need?

Send your ideas/needs to joshua.lippert@phila.gov.

The Education and Outreach Committee meets monthly. Want to get involved? For more information contact Josh Lippert at joshua.lippert@phil.gov

NTM Engineering Opens New Training Center

NTM Engineering, Inc. (NTM) is proud to announce the opening of a new state-of-the-art training center in the Dillsburg Headquarters location. The training center offers a dedicated space to provide clients with advanced training in specialized engineering courses, including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Hydraulic Engineering Center River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) software program, Erosion and Sediment Control (E&S), and more. To date, NTM has presented "Introduction to HEC-RAS" three times and "BMPs for Erosion and Sediment Control Plans" in two offerings.



Check out the training page on our website to subscribe to our mailing list and receive notifications about new training courses. <https://www.ntmeng.com/training/> Is there a course you would like to attend but don't see listed? We would love to hear your ideas! Send your ideas, comments, or questions to training@ntmeng.com.

Update from Membership Committee

The Membership Committee, chaired by Chelsea Blair, Lycoming County, is looking for input on membership benefits. In March we'll be launching a membership survey to obtain input on what benefits and incentives you most want to have as a PAFPM member. How best can PAFPM can help you? By providing technical assistance, free training, etc.? If you or someone you know is interested in becoming more involved with PAFPM and the Membership Committee, please contact Chelsea Blair at cblair@lyco.org. Note, you DO NOT have to be a CFM to become a member of our organization!

Membership renewals are due June 30th, 2020.

Stormwater Educational Tools from Penn State Extension

Municipalities, engineers, and others looking to educate community members about stormwater now have access to a number of new ready-to-use tools from Penn State Extension. These articles, videos, interactive webtools, and hands-on activities will help you share the message about everyone's role in improving local water quality.

Among the tools is Penn State Extension's recently launched series of short videos that answer common questions asked in your community, called **Stormwater Basics**. These videos are available at no cost to you and can be directly linked to on

your own website and in your newsletters. They include companion articles for when print versions are necessary. Some of the common questions include, What is Stormwater?, Why Should I Care About Stormwater?, Why is My Community Flooding More Than it Used To?, and more.

Other valuable tools available from Penn State Extension include the Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater with its companion **interactive GIS** website where homeowner's can map their own property and calculate their impervious surfaces to create a personal stormwater management plan. If you need to reach youth or have a fun and hands-on demonstration to share at community events. Check out the ***Rain to Drain – Slow the Flow*** curriculum guide. This activity uses simple, everyday objects to effectively communicate the impact of development on the flow of rain water and what we can all do to help reduce those impacts through green infrastructure.

If you need more than just tools and could benefit from volunteers to help lead educational opportunities in your community, you might be able to connect with a **local Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards program** in your county. These highly trained volunteers can help you reach residents with workshops or even potentially provide assistance with local water quality improvement projects. To learn more about all that Penn State Extension has to offer, visit extension.psu.edu or contact the Penn State Extension office in your county.

Community Spotlight: Southeastern PA Climate Change Map

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) published a "Coastal Effects of Climate Change in Southeastern PA" story map. With funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), DVRPC worked with Pennsylvania communities (Philadelphia, Bucks County, and Delaware County) located in the Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone (DECZ) to help build their capacity to plan for and respond to increased flooding in the future.

The story map depicts both current and future flooding impacts for communities within the DECZ. It calculates coastal flood heights for the years 2050 and 2100 by adding projected sea level rise (SLR) onto the flood height calculated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the current 1% flood (also known as "100-year" flood). The geographic extent of each of these flood heights is then mapped using digital elevation data. The analysis also illustrates current and future chronic inundation and includes information about community assets at risk across selected scenarios.

The story map also includes an analysis of the federal Community Rating System (CRS) program and illustrates potential savings to flood insurance policyholders within the DECZ communities if they were to join the CRS program.



[Visit the Story Map Here](#)

*Does your community have a story to share in our next newsletter?
Send your stories to joshua.lippert@phila.gov.*

Announcements:

New State NFIP Program Manager: Bill Bradfield, CFM



Greetings from PEMA! I am excited to begin work as the new NFIP Program Manager and look forward to helping the Commonwealth's more than 2,500 NFIP municipalities. Did you know that Pennsylvania contains approximately 10% of all NFIP-participating communities nationwide? Officially, as the NFIP Program Manager I am tasked with providing technical assistance regarding floodplain management regulations, coordinating outreach and training for local officials and professionals, and collaborating with other agencies and organizations on floodplain management issues. However, this list is not exhaustive, and I am willing to help out on all things floodplain related!

Although I am still getting acclimated to the new position, it has already become clear that one of the largest issues we face as a state is education. Municipal representatives seem to appreciate any floodplain management training they receive, and for many this is the first time they learn about the local responsibilities (and benefits) of responsible floodplain management. Education and outreach will continue to play a major role statewide, and I believe PAFPM and its members will be a tremendous asset moving forward. Improving floodplain management across the state is a big lift, but I think we are heading the right direction and could be poised to become a leader if we continue to prioritize responsible floodplain development.

Finally, a little about me: Prior to joining the Commonwealth I was a Flood Resiliency Program Analyst at SEDA-Council of Governments, a local development district serving 11 counties in Central Pennsylvania. In this role I provided technical assistance and helped build local capacity related to floodplain best management practices and managing hazard mitigation grant projects. Before SEDA-COG I worked for a civil engineering firm where I first got involved in floodplain management working on various water resource projects (i.e. dams and levees). I have a degree in Geology from Bucknell University as well as being a Certified Floodplain Manager.

Contact: wbradfield@pa.gov

FEMA Defers Risk Rating 2.0 to 2021

On November 7, 2019 FEMA announced they would defer the implementation of Risk Rating 2.0 to October 2021.

For more information take a look at [FEMA's press release](#).



Want to become a Certified Floodplain Manger (CFM)?

PAFPM routinely coordinates training sessions and test locations across the state. If you are interested or would just like more information, please contact your [PAFPM Area representative](#).



National ASFPM Conference

Registration opens February 2020, early bird discount ends April 5, 2020. For details: <https://asfpmconference.org/>



PAFPM

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Flooding in the NEWS

- [Insurers cherry-pick homes, leave flooded ones for feds 12/3/19](#)
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- [Federal Flood Rates Rising Despite 2.0 Delay 11/19/19](#)
- [Climate Change Is Going to Transform Where and How We Build 10/16/19](#)
- [Bank Regulators Present a Dire Warning of Financial Risks From Climate Change 10/17/19](#)
- [After Harvey surprised thousands with unexpected flooding, new law aims to better inform homebuyers 8/22/19](#)
- [Letter to the editor: Role of trees, forests in Western Pa. Flooding 7/28/19](#)
- [As Floods Keep Coming, Cities Pay Residents to Move 7/6/19](#)
- [Zillow Research Director: It's 'Tragic' That We're Building In Flood-Prone Zones 8/7/19](#)

Regional Contacts:

- West: Dan Distler, Beaver County - ddistler@beavercountypa.gov
- East: Josh Lippert, City of Philadelphia - joshua.lippert@phila.gov
- Central: Bill Bradford, PA NFIP Program Manager - wbradfield@pa.gov

2019 PAFPM Officers:

Chair: Taryn Murray, CFM, Michael Baker International

Vice-Chair: Daniel Distler, CFM, Beaver County

Secretary: Doniele Russell, CFM, Lawrence County

Treasurer: William Bradfield, CFM, PEMA

Want to sponsor PAFPM?

PAFPM is looking for sponsors for our newsletter, social events, and educational trainings as well as our yearly conference. For more information contact flood@pafpm.org

Look out for our next newsletter in June 2020!