



PAFPM Floodplain Management Symposium March 2021

AGENDA

*Networking room(s) open during each symposium day (8:30AM-12:30PM)

Tuesday March 16th

Day 1 Overview – Josh Lippert – PAFPM Chair

8:45-9:00AM

Keynote

9:00AM – 9:25AM

Lindsay Byron, P.G.

Environmental Group Manager

Energy Programs Office

PA Department of Environmental Protection

9:30AM – 10:00AM

Flood-Ready Policy Opportunities for the New Congress

Presenter: Forbes Tompkins, PEW (*Manager, Federal Policy, Flood-Prepared Communities*)

The Pew Charitable Trusts' flood-prepared communities team will provide a 30-minute presentation on federal policy opportunities ripe for action early in the new Congress that can modernize the nation's approach to better preparing communities and infrastructure for future floods.

In recent years, the country has witnessed unprecedented hurricanes and inland flooding. The growing need to address this problem stems from a dated policy and regulatory environment such as land use policies that encourage putting more people and assets in high-risk areas, the nation's deteriorating state of infrastructure that wasn't built to withstand the magnitude and frequency of disasters we're experiencing today, and continued underinvestment in pre-disaster mitigation that could help families, businesses, and infrastructure be better prepared before the next storm.

The 116th Congress made progress toward helping states and localities recover from and brace for future storms, but more is critically needed. As another spring flooding season approaches policy opportunities exist for the new Congress to ensure our communities and the roads, hospitals, schools, and other critical infrastructure they depend on can rise to the challenge of future floods.

This presentation will outline progress made during the 116th Congress and numerous federal flood-ready policy opportunities the new Congress should consider in early 2021.

Learning Objectives:

- Provide a comprehensive understanding of federal flood resilience and mitigation policy developments during the 116th Congress.

- Provide a detailed outline federal flood resilience and mitigation proposals and legislative vehicles poised for action in 2021.
- Answer questions and discuss potential opportunities, hurdles, and additional interests among PAFPM members related to legislative opportunities.

Tags: Flood Mitigation, Flood Preparedness

Credit: 0.5

10:10AM – 11:40AM

Floodplain Design, Construction, and Impacts on Flood Insurance

Presenters:

- Sean O’Leary, FloodProofing.com (*Business Development Representative*)
- Owen Gechter, FloodProofing.com (*Regional Sales Representative*)
- Camille Graham, Smart Vent Products (*Flood Mitigation Specialist*)

This course provides insight into the importance of proper foundation flood vents and dry floodproofing techniques for buildings located in a flood zone. It will identify FEMA Technical Bulletins 1, 2, and 3, the National Flood Insurance Program, ASCE 24, ICC, and Building Code regulations and standards as they relate to sustaining foundations and overall business continuity in flood hazard areas. The course will also analyze the role of building compliance in securing lowering flood insurance rates and what mitigation solutions are available for both residential and nonresidential structures. After the course, participants will have a thorough understanding of floodproofing options and the important role they play in designing a sustainable structure.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe floods and the potential hazards to buildings.
- Explain the differences between wet and dry floodproofing techniques.
- Define the differences in engineered and nonengineered flood openings and their ability to ensure resilient structures.
- Active vs. passive floodproofing solutions and the overall impact of ownership.

Tags: Flood Mitigation, Flood Insurance, Flood Codes/Regulations

Credit: 1.5 CFM and AIA HSW

11:50AM – 12:30PM

National Weather Service Flood Forecasting and Warning Program

Presenter: Charles Ross, National Weather Service (*Service Hydrologist*)

Will present an overview of National Weather Service Hydrology program. The presentation will discuss the river forecasting process and the various hydrology products available.

Learning Objectives:

- River forecasting and information
- Flood preparedness
- Flood mapping

Tags: Public Information Flood Mapping, Flood Preparedness

Credit: 1

Wednesday March 17th

8:30AM-8:55AM **Overview of Day 2 – Josh Lippert**

9:00AM – 9:40AM (2 Options)

Nature-based Approaches to Flood Mitigation: Overview and New Trends

Presenter: Eileen Shader, American Rivers (*Director, River Restoration*)

Nature-based approaches to mitigate flood damages continue to grow in popularity and acceptance in communities across the United States. Federal flood management programs are increasingly interested in funding nature-based projects. This presentation will provide floodplain managers with an overview of trends and policy changes related to nature-based flood mitigation including FEMA policies and guidance, USACE policies, hazard mitigation planning, and economic benefits of floodplain restoration. Attendees will come away with increased knowledge of the resources available to help them plan flood mitigation projects that utilize nature-based approaches in their communities.

Learning Objectives:

- Improved understanding of nature-based approaches to manage floods
- Overview of FEMA and USACE policies related to the use of nature-based approaches
- Examples of recent nature-based projects in PA and neighboring states.

Tags: Flood Mitigation

Credit: 0.5

Public/Private Partnerships for Flood Control Operations

Presenter: Eric Stahley, Columbia County Water Mitigation Authority (*Resiliency Officer*)

Presentation on how we administer Operations and Maintenance of the new Columbia County flood control system. Columbia County uses a unique partnership between County Government and Local private industry employees to maintain and operate our flood control systems.

Learning Objectives:

- Inform attendees on some other options for operating flood control systems.
- Inform attendees on the mechanics of payroll, insurance, and equipment sharing as part of this program.
- Demonstrate the cost effectiveness of public/private partnerships.

Tags: Flood Mitigation, Operations of flood control structures

Credit: 0.5

9:50AM – 10:30AM (2 Options)

Letters of Map Revision and Conditional Letters of Map Revision in Pennsylvania

Presenter: Ben Kaiser, AECOM (*Project Manager*)

Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs) and Conditional Letters of Map Revision (CLOMRs) are an important part of a community's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. They are how the regulatory floodplain is maintained up to date, by reflecting the impacts of development and other physical changes. This in turn provides accurate information for floodplain management and flood insurance rating. This presentation will review the required data and documentation that must be included in a LOMR or CLOMR request (also known as an MT-2 application). We will also present some of the common mistakes or data gaps than can delay the processing of these requests. Finally, we will discuss some complexities that we have seen with LOMRs and CLOMRs in Pennsylvania. These includes LOMRs/CLOMRs affecting multiple communities and LOMRs/CLOMR in floodplain influenced by the effects of tidal/coastal flooding.

Learning Objectives:

- When a LOMR / CLOMR is required

- Submittal Requirements
- Common issues/misunderstandings

Tags: Flood Mapping

Credit: 0.5

Navigating the Levee Mapping Process

Presenters:

- Mike Seering, AECOM (*Project Manager*)
- Bob Pierson, FEMA Region 3 (*Mapping*)

Navigating the levee mapping process can be simpler than it seems. Levee systems can be credited with multiple levels of risk reduction, including traditional Special Flood Hazard Areas (Zone AE/VE), Restoration Zones (Zone AR/A99), Zone D (undetermined risk), Shaded Zone X (moderate to low risk), or a combination of these zones. Levee mapping can also include a temporary levee status, defined as a levee seclusion or Provisionally Accredited Levee. All these possible end results can require different levels of involvement from communities and levee owners.

The determination process can seem overwhelming for communities, but the possibilities are defined by standard criteria. This presentation will review the process steps and timelines used by FEMA Region III when working through a levee map status update with communities and levee owners.

The presenters will walk through the logical series of steps applied in the levee mapping process. The discussion will examine the pros and cons of potential levee zone classification and mapping, including the corresponding responsibilities and efforts from communities and other stakeholders.

Levee situation examples will be used to help illustrate how the levee mapping process is applied to real world scenarios. Attendees will also be referred to tools and guides available for their own levee needs.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand how flood hazard zones are defined for leveed areas, based on levee status.
- Review the steps involved in determining levee status and associated timelines for mapping.
- Discuss the roles and responsibilities of communities, levee owners, and State and Federal agencies for levee mapping.

Tags: Flood Mapping

Credit: 0.5

10:40AM – 11:40AM

How to Be Engaging: Best practices in public outreach/communication

Presenter: Sarah Bowen, WSP (*Planning & Environment Manager*)

Stakeholder and public engagement provide an opportunity to improve your project. Strong engagement build supports and partnerships for projects and plans. It is best to begin with a series of questions:

- What is the purpose of engagement?
- Whose support will bring this project to fruition?
- Whose voice is often not at the table?
- How will input impact the final plan or design?

Answering questions like these guides the purpose and objectives for outreach. The objectives should then guide selection of tools and techniques. Techniques shared will include methods to improve outreach to diverse

audiences and virtual audiences. The session will cover from the basics of designing outreach to innovative engagement tools. Pennsylvania based experiences in flood and hazard mitigation outreach will be the focus of examples from the presenter and participants.

Learning Objectives:

- Outline the types of important questions to ask at the beginning of a project to design effective, meaningful, useful outreach.
- Identify tools that can be mixed and matched to your project objective.
- Learn techniques to improve outreach to diverse audiences and virtual audiences.
- Hear and share ideas from flood-focused and Pennsylvania-based outreach.

Tags: Public Information

Credit: 1

11:50PM – 12:30PM

Pennsylvania Silver Jackets – Interagency Team Reducing Flood Risk in Pennsylvania

Presenters:

- Jason Stick, USACE – Baltimore District (*Silver Jackets Coordinator*)
- Andrea Carson, USACE – Pittsburgh District (*Community Planner*)

Members of the Pennsylvania Silver Jackets team will make participants aware of the interagency flood risk management team and how they are working to reduce flood risk in the Commonwealth. Several interagency projects that have assisted local communities will be presented. The presenters will also ask for input from the participants on priorities that should be included in the Pennsylvania Flood Risk Communication Plan that is currently being developed.

Learning Objectives:

- Make participants aware of the interagency team, how we work and what we can provide to communities;
- Make participants aware of the resources we can provide;
- Provide information of Flood Risk Communication plan

Tags: Flood Mitigation, Flood Preparedness, Public Information, Flood Mapping

Credit: 1

Thursday March 18th

8:30AM-8:55AM **Overview of Day 3 – Josh Lippert**

9:00AM – 10:00AM

NFIP Transformation Updates/Risk Rating 2.0

Presenter: Richard Sobota, FEMA Region 3 (*Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter*)

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is working to "Close the Insurance Gap" by doubling the number of structures insured against flooding by 2022. Among other initiatives, FEMA is redesigning its risk rating by leveraging industry best practices and current technology, FEMA will deliver rates that are fair, make sense, are easier to understand and better reflect a property's unique flood risk. FEMA calls this effort Risk Rating 2.0.

Learning Objectives:

- Attenders will be able to list at least three benefits of Risk Rating 2.0
- Attenders will be able to describe three rating characteristics to be used in Risk Rating 2.0
- Attenders will be able to list three mitigation activities that qualify for credit under Risk Rating 2.0

Tags: Flood Mitigation, Flood Preparedness, Public Information, Flood Insurance

Credit: 1

10:10AM – 11:10AM

CRS Users Group, and how to make CRS work for your community

Presenters:

- Teri Provost, SEDA-Council of Governments (*Director of Housing Rehabilitation and Flood Resiliency*)
- Eric Stahley, Columbia County (*Resiliency Officer*)
- Charles Fritz, Town of Bloomsburg (*Director of Governmental Services/Recycling Coordinator*)
- Geralee Zeigler, SEDA-Council of Governments (*Program Analyst*)

This presentation will be in the form of a panel. The audience will hear about the CRS Users Group, a success story of CRS from the Town of Bloomsburg that recently achieved a class 7 rating, CRS benefits, CRS pitfalls of going from a class 7 to a class 6 in Pennsylvania, and how to join the User's group to learn how to successfully implement and navigate the CRS program for municipal staff and elected officials. We would like to open the presentation with a CRS Users group overview to be led by Eric Stahley. The discussion will include a 15-minute-deep dive into the who, what, how, when and why of the Users Group. The next panel participate, Charles Fritz will (~15 minutes) discuss the Town of Bloomsburg's success story of recently achieving the class 7 rating and the insurance savings realized. The panel will than turn over to Geralee Zeigler and Teri Provost (~15 minutes) of SEDA-COG that will discuss the heavy lift to successfully achieve a class 6 in the Commonwealth and some of the recent CRS changes that need to be addressed by CRS communities. Finally, the panel will turn back to Eric Stahley, he will close the meeting with the success of the user's group to date, the benefits of joining and how to join (~5-10 minutes).

Learning Objectives:

- CRS success stories
- Insurance savings
- CRS User Group

Tags: Flood Mitigation, Flood Insurance, Public Information, Flood Preparedness

Credit: 1

11:20AM – 12:00PM

Pulling the Plug: A Recovered History of Pennsylvania's Unbuilt Flood Protection Projects

Presenter: Brian Kempf, Tetra Tech (*Hazard Mitigation and Community Resilience Planner*)

Pennsylvania's mighty waterways have shaped the State's development and prosperity, and also pose one of its most critical threats. Over the years, numerous attempts to tame the Commonwealth's rivers have been developed, only to be scuttled due to countless considerations. This presentation will overview some of the projects that never made it off the drawing board and examine the implications for the future of floodplain management in Pennsylvania.

Learning Objectives:

- Inform attendees of historical flood protection efforts
- Provide an administrative and historical context for stalled or cancelled infrastructure projects
- Examine lessons learned for future flood mitigation infrastructure projects

Tags: Flood Mitigation, Flood History

Credit: 0.5

12:00PM – 12:30PM

Symposium Wrap-up and Next Steps

Open PAFPM Board and Members Meeting

- **Annual membership Meeting**

Sponsors:

