



**Pennsylvania
Association of
State Floodplain
Managers**

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

***Become a PAFPM
Member TODAY!***

A PAFPM membership gives you access to training, workshops, newsletter, conferences, and networking opportunities. Individual membership is \$50.

Contact us at flood@pafpm.org with questions about membership or visit PAFPM.org*

PAFPM
301 E Main Street
Bloomsburg, PA
17815

**Please note we are making updates to our webpage - there may be a delay in accessibility.*

A Note from the Chair of the Board of Directors

Hello 2024 PAFPM Community from your Board of Directors!

Thanks to all who have renewed your membership or who have recently joined. We've made it easier to do so with membership-friendly pricing (did anyone say *free to students?*), so please share with your colleagues to take advantage and participate. This is made possible by our 2023 and 2024 corporate sponsors – we appreciate you and the expertise you bring to the table. Thank you!

We are actively working on generating a full year of activities for you to learn, ask questions, and participate in policy generating discussions to improve public safety and your ability to do your jobs well. Watch for upcoming announcements on Committee activities, CFM training, topical webinars, and the annual conference in the fall.

We would like to feature more community successes this year in our newsletter, so please send us short stories about your community wins and any photos you have. Did your community construct any new flood mitigation infrastructure? If so, would you like to give a webinar about your process? Has your community been remapped, or your ordinance updated? Please share how you made it happen. We all learn from each other, so let's share our wins. We look forward to a productive and active 2024.

Elaine Montes, PAFPM Chair

2024 PAFPM Officers

Chair: Elaine Montes – elaine.montes@phila.gov

Vice-Chair: Leslie Rhoads – lrhoads@pml.org

Immediate Past Chair: Susan Patterson – susan.patterson@phila.gov

Secretary: Zoe Linder-Baptie – zoelinder@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mike Reffeor – mreffeor@bloomsburgpa.org

2024 Committee Chairs

Mapping & Technical: Zach Ranstead – zranstead@tandmassociates.com

Membership & Education: Alex Shreffler – aleshreffler@gmail.com

Conference Planning Committee: Donna Newell – dnewell@ntmeng.com

Policy and Legislative Committee: Susan Patterson – susan.patterson@phila.gov

Please feel free to reach out to any Board Member or Committee Lead if you would like to participate on one of the committees.

PAFPM Website Update

We would like to make a PAFPM membership include valuable and accessible resources! This past year we realized that our website may not be on the best platform for these goals, so we are working diligently to make changes. Key updates will be easier membership sign up, event registration and payments, as well as member only resource pages. You may notice that this spring our website is unavailable as we are making these changes. Thank you for your patience and please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Membership Pricing

Individual Membership	\$50.00 (USD)	Subscription period: 1 year, on: January 1st No automatically recurring payments
Nonprofit Organization OR Government Agency	\$300.00 (USD) <i>Bundle (up to 15 members)</i>	Subscription period: 1 year, on: January 1st No automatically recurring payments Includes up to 15 members
Corporate Membership	\$200.00 (USD) <i>Bundle (up to 5 members)</i>	Subscription period: 1 year, on: January 1st No automatically recurring payments Includes up to 5 members
Student Membership	Free	Subscription period: 1 year, on: January 1st No automatically recurring payments You must have an .edu email address

Email us at flood@pafpm.org if you have questions.

2024 Conference Information

Keep an eye out for more information on the 2024 PAFPM Conference. We are aiming again for September – presentation submissions will be accepted starting April 1 until June 30.

Community Spotlight

The Pennsylvania Silver Jackets has compiled flood resiliency success stories from across the Commonwealth to help other communities learn about flood mitigation projects. Example projects include Building Acquisitions, Dam Related, Emergency Management, Flood Inundation Mapping, Flood Monitoring/Flood Gages, Flood Risk Management, Floodplain/Stream Restoration, Flood Proofing, Green Infrastructure/Natural and Nature-based Solutions and more. Visit <https://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Silver-Jackets/State-Teams/Pennsylvania/> to see the success stories document and for more information on PA Silver Jackets team.

Committee Spotlight

For the last few months, the Policy & Legislative Committee of PAFPM has been investigating issues and challenges that municipalities are experiencing while implementing floodplain management requirements of the NFIP. Members of the committee launched a survey to gather this information from across Pennsylvania to help develop educational and training opportunities of interest to PA floodplain management professionals. It will also help identify areas where PAFPM can advocate for support for the broad problems municipal officials are experiencing as we all work towards increasing flood resilience in PA. So far, 287 municipal officials from across the Commonwealth have completed the survey, with at least one survey

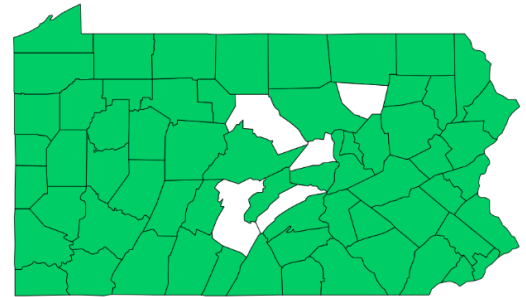
from all but five counties (see map below). All municipal floodplain managers and officials who work in the floodplain management space are encouraged to [complete the survey here](#) if they have not already done so; we'd love to hear from you! Some preliminary findings from the survey include:

- Only 21% of respondents said their communities had applied for a FEMA grant.
- ~50% of respondents feel that their municipal floodplain management staff do not have sufficient technical resources or training to implement NFIP requirements.
- 84% of respondents are unaware of any required training in flood insurance or Risk Rating 2.0 for insurance agents in their communities.

Counties with at least 1 Completed Survey as of 1/2/2024

If you have any questions about the survey or results of this work, please contact Virginia Silvis:

Virginia Silvis, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Scholar
Earth and Environmental Systems Institute
The Pennsylvania State University
Email: vgs5063@psu.edu



Floodplain Management Training

[Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP Course \(in-person\)](#)

February 5-7, 8:00a-5:00p
Media, PA

[Advanced Floodplain Management Course \(in-person\)](#)

March 4-7, 8:30a-4:30p
PEMA HQ – Harrisburg, PA

PEMA News

Municipal Annual Floodplain Management Reporting

Pennsylvania Act 166 of 1978, the Pennsylvania Floodplain Management Act, requires all flood prone municipalities to regulate development occurring in their floodplain areas. All such municipalities are required to file an annual report with Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) detailing all development permits issued with your municipality whether any permits were issued or not.

Visit PEMA's website to [complete the report](#).

A huge thanks to our PAFPM Sponsors!



TETRA TECH

