



Upcoming Events

Conowingo Dam
Field Tour
April 2023

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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
463 Mill Street
Danville, PA 17821

A Note from the Chair of the Board of Directors

Hello 2023 PAFPM Community from your Board of Directors!

Thanks to all of you 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 take advantage and participate. Thank you also to our 2022 and 2023 corporate sponsors – we appreciate you and the expertise you bring to the table.

We are actively working on the generation of 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, the annual conference in September, and new this year – an onsite dam tour.

We would like to start featuring more community successes this year, so please send us a short description and photos. Did you become a CRS community? If so, would you like to give a webinar about your process? We'd love that. 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 2023.

Sue Patterson, PAFPM Chair

2023 PAFPM Officers:

Chair: Susan Patterson – susan.patterson@phila.gov
Vice-Chair: Elaine Montes – elaine.montes@phila.gov
Immediate Past Chair: Dan Distler – ddistler@beavercountypa.gov
Secretary: Zoe Linder-Baptie – zoelinder@gmail.com
Treasurer: Ken Roberts – robertskennethj@gmail.com

2023 Committee Chairs:

Education and Outreach: Kelsey Green – kgreen@lyco.org
Mapping and Technical: Zach Ranstead – zranstead@tandmassociates.com
Membership: Kim Dunn – kdunn@tandmassociates.com
Conference Planning Committee: Donna Newell – dnewell@ntmeng.com
Policy and Legislative Committee: Kerry Wilson – willysons@comcast.net

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

Membership Pricing Updates

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.

2023 Conference Information

The Fall 2023 conference will be on September 26-27, 2023, in State College at the Graduate Hotel (the former Atherton Hotel). We have rooms reserved for Monday night (25th) and Tuesday night (26th). Quoted rate is \$119/night; 60 rooms will be held.

Address:
125 South Atherton Street
State College, PA 16801

Presentation submissions will be June 1, 2023 – keep an eye out for forthcoming submission details.

Floodplain Management Training

Floodplain Ordinance Training

- [Bradford County: April 20, 2023](#)

Floodplain Management Course G-273 (CFM training course)

- [Delaware County: March 14-17, 2023](#)
- [Erie County: April 18-21, 2023](#)

Floodplain G-284: Advanced Floodplain Concepts

- [Butler County: June 6-9, 2023](#)

Social Media Tools and Techniques PER-344

- [Virtual: February 21-22, 2023](#)

Social Media Engagement Strategies PER-343

- [Virtual: March 27-28, 2023](#)

Member Spotlight:

Kerry Wilson – Lifetime Achievement Award

At our 2022 conference, PAFPM was excited to present a Lifetime Achievement Award to Kerry Wilson. When we started compiling a list of his accomplishments, it was hard to nail down when he served in what roles because no one had been around long enough to remember. There were unverified reports that he helped Noah with construction of the Ark, and that experience may have helped to form some of Pennsylvania's building codes.

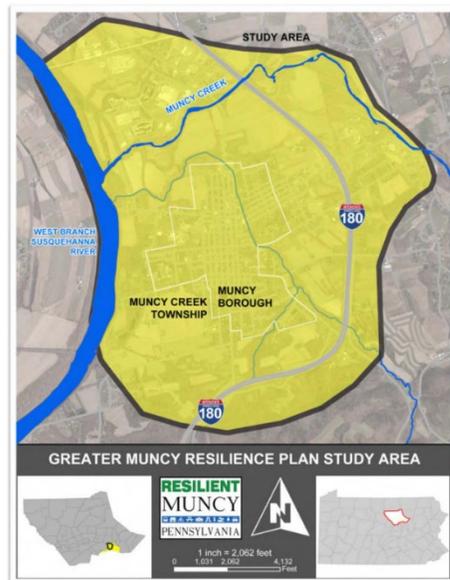
Kerry started working in floodplain management in 1971, becoming the Pennsylvania National Flood Insurance (NFIP) Coordinator in 1972. This probably makes him the only current PAFPM member who was working in the field when Hurricane Agnes struck. He served in this role for a decade, witnessing such developments as the Flood Insurance Protection Act requiring the identification of high-risk flood zones and mandatory purchase of flood insurance, and the creation of FEMA in 1979.

From 1982-1995 Kerry was the Policy Specialist for Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). From 1995-2007, he resumed his role as State NIFP coordinator and administered the program for the state through the Map Mod initiative, being the State point of contact to help many hundreds of communities who were required to update their floodplain management ordinances: most for the first time since entering the program 20-30 year earlier. This was a time of intense coordination and community education across the commonwealth. From 2009-2010 he was PA DEP's Special Assistant for Floodplain Management, or as he was known: the Flood Czar. Since 2010, he has been a FEMA reservist. Since that early organizational meeting in State College in 2006, when PA DCED, FEMA and PA Mapping and Geographic Information Consortium (PaMAGIC) joined forces to start developing state-wide LiDAR to support Map Mod and update the FIRMs for the state, he has been a key member of what eventually became PAFPM. To this day, in his retirement, he works tirelessly supporting PAFPM, getting the word out at events throughout the state,

Regardless of his titles, Kerry has always been a proponent of sound floodplain management in the state and a helping hand to communities in meeting their obligations to protect lives and property. More importantly, in a field of people who are very passionate about hazard mitigation, Kerry stands out as one of the kindest and most dedicated. PAFPM is very fortunate to have him in our circle, and I personally am very grateful to count him as a friend.

Community Spotlight:

Kelsey Green – Greater Muncy Area



The Greater Muncy Area is located along the intersections of the Susquehanna River, Muncy Creek, and Glade Run in Lycoming County. These waterways have created a massive flooding issue within the area regarding both riverine and stormwater flooding. Muncy Borough and Muncy Creek Township have 1,296 properties within the 100-year floodplain. Additionally, 41% of all commercial and residential structures in Muncy Borough are in the 100-year floodplain. After tropical storm Lee, in 2011, Lycoming County began the efforts to begin the Greater Muncy Resilience Plan with the goal of making Muncy, Pennsylvania "The Most Resilient Community" in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Lycoming County worked with a local advisory committee and community stakeholders to find the largest concerns for the planning area. When flooding

was brought to the forefront as one of the largest issues facing the Greater Muncy Area, the County Planning department was able to partner with the USACE to do a more in-depth study of the area in regards to flood risk assessment, detailed flood mapping, H&H studies, & economic assessments. Lycoming County is currently working to with the USACE study on the final phase of the study which would produce alternatives to both riverine and stormwater flooding in the Greater Muncy Area. This final study will examine both structural and non-structural solutions to the flooding that faces the area. Moving forward we hope to implement as many of these suggestions from the study as possible to create a more resilient community. For more details on this project please contact Kelsey Green, Lycoming County Hazard Reduction Planner at kgreen@lyco.org

Charlie Fritz – Town of Bloomsburg

The Town of Bloomsburg is home to Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg University) and is the County seat for Columbia County. In 2011, Tropical Storm Lee brought devastation to the Town with a record flood of 32.75 feet. Devastation from the storm resulted in cancellation of the annual fair which has operated for over 175 years.



Bloomsburg participates in the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) program. Currently the Town is a class 7 which provides all NFIP backed flood insurance policies with a 15% premium discount that helps offset the rising costs of flood insurance. The floodplain in Bloomsburg was created by the Susquehanna River on the south and Fishing Creek on the north and west boundaries of the Town. When floods occur, over 1/3 of the landmass within the Town can be covered. Flooding occurs in low lying areas on Ft. McClure Blvd. around the Town Park at a river level of 19 feet. The Town has recorded measurable flooding in 1975 (27.5 ft.); 2004 (27.1 ft.) and seven floods greater than 23 feet occurred in 1979, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1993, 1996, and 2005. In March of 2011, a flood level of 22.57 was reached. Prior to the Tropical Storm Lee event the two largest flood events were in 1904 and in 1972 when Hurricane Agnes hit the region.



Before Tropical Storm Lee, the Town of Bloomsburg had seventy-six properties that were classified as repetitive loss properties. That number grew to one hundred and ninety-one after the event. The Town has mitigated twenty-six repetitive loss properties through buyouts and home elevations. Following the 2011 Lee Event, eleven homes all in the 900 Block of West Main Street were acquired/ demolished through FEMA funds.

In 2008, the Town purchased the Streater Farm and Old Mill properties to create the Streater Recreational Fields. This location is at the confluence of the Susquehanna River and Fishing Creek and is subject to frequent flooding. The Town now has six soccer fields and a football field established at this location.

In the fall of 2022, the Town completed a third home elevation project. The Town continues to work on flood mitigation through multiple grant programs.



INDUSTRY PROTECTION - The Columbia County Commissioners received funding through the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority H2O PA Program grant, coupled with funds from Alcoa, the parent company of Kawneer North America, to construct a levee to protect the Kawneer facility in Bloomsburg in 2009. An

earthen levee was constructed surrounding the thirty-one-acre facility to protect it from flood waters, as well as construction of an emergency entrance/exit over Kinney Run onto East 9th Street that would allow the business to operate uninterrupted through a flooding event.

After the Lee Event, Columbia County actively began planning for phase one of a FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT to protect another one of the County's largest employers, Autoneum, and the Windsor Food plant. Phase one of the FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT is a combination of earthen levee and H pile walls with several pumping stations. This levee system has two Floodbreak brand automatic gates that close to stop water from flash floods that rise quickly on Fishing Creek. The Columbia County Water Mitigation Authority was established in 2016 to oversee the operation and maintenance of the flood control system. This FLOOD CONTROL system was officially dedicated on October 11, 2016. Four years later Phase 2 of the FLOOD CONTROL SYSTEM was completed. This earthen levee met up with the Phase 1 system at 11th Street and circles around, protecting the Bloomsburg Area High and Middle School complexes and over one hundred homes, extends East just past Market Street. A portable levee system can be installed from this high ground point on 12th Street and run to the Public Works facility on Catherine Street when needed. Funding for this phase was coupled together by SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG) from multiple funding sources. A plaque recognizing the funding sources can be viewed at the Town Park near the Market Street Closure structure. The Town is truly grateful to SEDA-COG and the Columbia County Commissioners for taking on the development of flood protection in the Town of Bloomsburg.

The Town envisions a goal to add two additional FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES extending the existing structures in the Town. An eastern FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE would connect the Phase 2 levee to the Kawneer levee. A west end levee would run parallel to Fishing Creek and cut across the Bloomsburg Fair Grounds parking/entrance area to connect with the Phase 1 levee system. Much is needed for this to be accomplished. The Town is hopeful that the community may someday have a complete levee system through these efforts.

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.

PEMA is in the process of updating the web page and the link for 2022 has not been published at this time. It will be updated as soon as possible; an email to all municipalities will be sent as soon as it is available.

A huge thanks to our PAFPM Sponsors!



