



Upcoming Events

MARCH 23rd
Noon- 1:30 pm

National Weather Service: Data and Forecasts

Virtual (Zoom)

[Register Here](#)

Become a PAFPM Member TODAY!

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

Individual membership is only \$50 a year!

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

A Note from the Chair of the Board of Directors

2021 was another challenging yet successful year in the face of COVID and several flood disasters. Although we were unable to connect in person, we hosted 9 webinars, 6-session CFM prep, a virtual conference, and a board strategic planning session. Our memberships and sponsorships continue to grow and strengthen our organization.

Going into 2022, we aim to sustain and grow some of our core programming. However, we need your help! In order to maintain our programming and other initiatives we need active volunteers on our board and committees. As an all-volunteer organization it truly does take a team to do this work.

We are sad to see Josh Lippert leave the group as he pursues new opportunities at FEMA. Josh was instrumental in developing our virtual program and refreshing our website and newsletter.

- Dan Distler, PAFPM Chair

NEW 2022 PAFPM Officers:

Chair: Dan Distler, CFM, Beaver County

Vice-Chair: Zoe Linder-Baptie, Wharton Risk Center

Immediate Past Chair: Terri Provost, SEDA-COG

Secretary: Sue Patterson, CFM, Philadelphia Water Department

Treasurer: Ken Roberts, CFM, Danville Borough

2022 Conference

The PAFPM Board is excited to announce plans for an in-person annual conference in late September 20-21, 2022 in the Harrisburg Area. Arrangements are currently being finalized. We appreciate all your patience over the past 2 years as we needed to pivot away from planned in-person events.

The 2022 PAFPM Conference in September 2022 in Harrisburg, PA is themed "**50th Anniversary of Agnes Flood – From Risk to Resiliency.**" The thirteenth annual conference will address the challenges that Pennsylvania faces to construct, maintain, sustain, improve and reduce impacts from flooding in the physical, natural, social, and economic environments of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The conference will include keynote lectures, technical sessions, networking events, poster session for projects, and will also feature an opportunity to take the Certified Floodplain Manager Certification Exam (CFM) and/or a field trip to a nearby related project. The conference is ideal for municipal officials, state and federal agencies members, college students, consultants including, hydraulic engineers, environmental specialists, planning and policy professionals, permitting specialists, and other professionals in related fields.

Requests for Abstracts related to the following topics will be advertised soon:

- Post Flood Substantial Damage Assessments
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Integrated Floodplain and Stormwater Management
- Modeling and Floodplain Mapping

- Insurance – NFIP and Risk Rating 2.0
- Disparate Impacts/Social Justice in Floodplains
- Community Renewal/Development – Rebuild or Relocate
- Evolution of Stormwater Management
- Grants/Infrastructure Funding/Financing
- Outreach and Risk Communications
- Stream Restoration and CLOMR/LOMR Requirements
- Floodplain and Stormwater Management Policy Evolution
- Role of Floodplain Administrator

September 2021 Flood Damages:



Webinar Calendar 2022:

In 2022 we'll be striving to offer our members and the community at large a variety of training opportunities. Every March, May and September PAFPM will offer re-occurring programming around national events. While offering a total of 6-8 webinar a year worth 1 CEU each. Webinars typically occur on Wednesdays from noon to 1:30. Find Event Registration [here](#).

<p>MARCH 23rd <i>Noon- 1:30 pm</i></p> <p><u>National Weather Service: Data and Forecasts</u></p> <p>National Flood Awareness Month</p>	<p>APRIL 20 or 27th <i>Noon- 1:30 pm</i></p> <p><u>PEMA/FEMA Grant Opportunities Webinar</u> <u>Tom Hughes</u></p>	<p>MAY 18th <i>Noon- 1:30 pm</i></p> <p><u>Floodproofing – Risk Rating 2.0</u></p> <p>Building Safety Month</p>
<p>JUNE 8th <i>noon-1:30PM</i></p> <p><u>Cost/Benefit Analysis for Grant Applications</u></p>	<p>JULY</p> <p><i>Happy Summer</i></p>	<p>AUGUST 17th <i>noon-1:30PM</i></p> <p><u>Ida Lesson Learned</u></p> <p><u>CFM Exam Prep</u></p>
<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p><u>CONFERENCE THIS MONTH – CFM Exam</u> National Preparedness Month</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p> <p><u>Mapping/Data in Floodplain Management</u></p>	<p><u>NOVEMBER & DECEMBER</u></p> <p><u>Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays</u></p>

Please visit the [PAFPM Resource page](#) for past trainings and events.

Do you have a webinar idea or a training need?

Send your ideas/needs to flood@pafpm.org

CFM Training:

In 2022 we'll be striving to offer our members and the community at large an opportunity for CFM exam at the September Annual Conference. In late August and early September, PAFPM will provide a series of exam preparation sessions broken up into six separate sessions and a final refresher session. These sessions are free to members. We hope to grow our CFM numbers from 170 to well over 200 by the end of 2022! Please check [our website](#) for more information.

Committees:

Our committees need you! Consider volunteering for one of our committees, they meet monthly or every other month. All our committees aim to have a State-wide impact, so please consider joining these efforts. [Email us](#) to join a committee today!

- **Mapping and Technical Committee**
- **Policy and Legislative Committee**
- **Education and Outreach Committee**
- **Membership & Sponsorship Committee**

Community Spotlight: Danville Borough

Danville Borough, located in Montour County, was founded in 1792 as a trading post which grew into an iron mill boom town. Danville encompasses just two square miles while holding approximately five-thousand devoted residents. The original stone home remains today long after the last of Danville's Iron mills have been removed.

Danville is located along the north branch of the Susquehanna River where much of the borough sits in the FEMA mapped floodplain. Unfortunately, Danville is no stranger to flooding as it also contains within its boundaries the Mahoning Creek and Sechler Run. As a matter of fact, to some extent Danville has flooded in just about every decade over the last one-hundred years. During that time period, the borough residents worked diligently to protect themselves and their neighbors from the devastating floods. The mission to protect the Borough began largely with a relatively simple earthen levee that the citizens believed would negate or reduce the flood risk. Some one-hundred-eighty years after the borough's settlement began Hurricane Agnes would rear its ugly head and show the residents of Danville just how unprepared they really were for such an event despite the building of a levee. When researching the history of the flood mitigation steps the borough has taken over the decades, the words resilience and community comes to mind. It would appear that many of the flood mitigation structures still in place today came from a series of trial-and-error experiments based on what I'm sure was the best available information at those points in history as the residents did their best to grow with the ever-changing climate. From the original earthen levee to the concrete culvert that carries Sechler Run through and under the downtown and finally to the automatic closures and pump stations of recent years. From the sandbagging efforts of the high school football teams to the current and much more efficient commercial structure closures maintained by the Public Works department, Danville seems to have always had that can do, will do, never quit mentality.



Following the Agnes devastation of 1972 many mitigation activities were completed. Those efforts included, House Bill 1322 which was passed in 1977 granting the borough \$1.96 million dollars for the installation of much needed pump stations and the first commercial closure installed in 2003 with \$350 thousand dollars in HMGP monies made available following the 1994 flooding event. The borough continued to fight for its existence and ultimately the protection of its residents and businesses. Unfortunately in 2011 with the arrival of Tropical Storm Lee they were shown that the closures at Route 11 and route 54 being made of mountains of sandbags were not enough to withstand the torrential rains and violent floodwaters. FEMA later determined that the existing earthen levee system may not be high enough to withstand future events and much of the borough was remapped back into the floodplain. The solution to those findings consisted of increasing the Borough's earthen levee by up to three feet above the Agnes level and by adding additional commercial closures at route 11 and route 54 which ultimately replaced the last of the sandbag closures. The Borough is currently awaiting the final determination as to whether or not FEMA will certify the flood mitigation system as it exists today.

To learn more about Danville and its history visit: danvilleboro.org

Does your community have a story to share in our next newsletter?

Send your stories to flood@pafpm.org

FEMA News:

highlights new definition of residential, non-residential, other residential, mixed-use



Building Codes Save: A Nationwide Study

Losses Avoided as a Result of Adopting
Hazard-Resistant Building Codes

November 2020

Building Codes Save: A Nationwide Study of Loss Prevention

FEMA's landmark study, "Building Codes Save: A Nationwide Study," shows that modern building codes lead to major reduction in property losses from natural disasters. The FEMA report calculates losses from three types of natural hazard (earthquakes, flooding, and hurricane winds) for each state and Washington, D.C.

***Lobby your PA State legislators today to upgrade
our building codes from 2009 to the 2018 I-Codes!***

See [here](#) for more information.

PEMA News – Update from Bill Bradfield

Another trip around the sun, and 2021 really tried to make its mark in many ways! It was yet another year faced with the challenges of moving forward while dealing with the consistent presence of COVID-19. Hopefully the worst of the pandemic is behind us, and we can look forward to a resumption of in-person gatherings and face-to-face meetings that many of us missed for almost two years!

From a floodplain management standpoint, it is impossible to not acknowledge on the widespread flooding and damage from the remnants of Hurricane Ida in early September 2021. This event in early September affected much of the Commonwealth, with central and southeastern area especially hard hit. Several areas saw previous flood records exceeded for the second year in a row. While the waters were still high PEMA and FEMA mobilized to conduct preliminary damage assessments, and the result was the first federally declared disaster since Tropical Storm Lee/Irene in 2011. While the disaster declaration did make more assistance available to those affected, this event was another reminder of the importance of having flood insurance. A few other takeaways from this flood event include:

- The importance of substantial damage assessments. Aside from being a requirement of the floodplain ordinance, timely substantial damage assessments are vital to the recovery process. Policyholders need the substantial damage letters to claim their Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC)

money. Additionally, substantial damage determination break the cycle of repeated losses.

- The importance of planning and building capacity during “blue sky” days. It’s hard not to preach, but once again Hurricane Ida proved the importance of planning and establishing procedures that are in place for such an event. There will always be the “unexpected”, but all too often, the response after a flood event is more reactionary. Establishing procedures for collecting damage information, performing substantial damage determinations, permitting work in the floodplain, building a team of volunteers to help with inspections/permitting, etc. are all activities that can be established so that they are in place when needed.

On the programmatic front, the entire NFIP program was officially transferred over to PEMA in mid-2021 after residing with DCED since its inception. PEMA had been managing the programmatic delivery of the NFIP since 2018. Now with the entire program under its roof we hope to continue building and improving the program, with a focus on . I know PEMA really appreciated the collaboration with DCED the past few years, and this move occurred much sooner than most of us expected!

The past few months have also seen big developments with hazard mitigation grant funds. Under the Hazard Mitigation Grant program (HMGP), funds were made available for both the COVID-19 (DR-4506) and Remnants of Hurricane Ida (DR-4618) declarations. These grant programs are available on top of the annual non-disaster Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grants.

Here is a breakdown of the Commonwealth’s hazard mitigation grants :

HMGP – 153 applications

- 41 Acquisition projects (30 in designated disaster counties)
- 5 Elevation projection (4 in designated disaster counties)
- 1 Mitigation Reconstruction projection (1 in designated disaster counties)
- 18 Generator projects (6 in designated disaster counties)
- 10 Streambank Stabilizations (9 in designated disaster counties)
- 41 Infrastructure projects between DR-4506 / DR-4618 (29 in designated disaster counties)
- 38 Advance Assistance projects (12 in designated disaster counties, 3 statewide initiatives)

BRIC 2021

- 30 submitted projects (7 in designated disaster area)

FMA 2021

- 10 submitted projects (5 in designated disaster area)

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.

Announcements:

USACE Baltimore District:



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

USACE technical assistance programs: Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) program and Planning Assistance to the States (PAS) Program. These programs are for USACE planning-level technical assistance only and are not for design or construction. They are not grants. USACE conducts the study/analysis, and the cost is typically in the \$25,000-100,000 range.

- FPMS - conduct any type of flood-related analysis (modeling, mapping, evaluation of FRM alternatives, flood proofing assessments, outreach, CRS activities, dam safety, levee safety, etc.). Studies are federally funded; however, sponsors can voluntarily contribute funds to expand the study.
- PAS - conduct any type of water-related analysis (stormwater assessments, sanitary sewer studies, water supply, stream assessment, watershed planning, etc.). Studies are cost-shared 50% federal and 50% non-federal.

For more visit the [Baltimore District's Technical Assistance](#) website.

PA Silver Jackets:



In FY21, the PA Silver Jackets Team submitted five Interagency Non-Structural Flood Risk Management proposals that were approved and funded and are now underway. The projects include assessing the impacts of climate change on USACE flood control dams and communicating associated risk to communities downstream, providing educational webinars, conducting outreach commemorating the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Agnes, developing a Floodplain Management Plan for the Frank E. Heller Dam in Lycoming County and hosting a one-day tabletop flood exercise for Lake Williams Dam in York.

For more information, please contact Stacey Underwood at 410-962-4977, or Stacey.M.Underwood@usace.army.mil.

Regional Contacts:

- West: Dan Distler, Beaver County - ddistler@beavercountypa.gov
- East: Sue Patterson, City of Philadelphia - susan.patterson@phila.gov
- Central: Bill Bradford, PA NFIP Program Manager - wbradfield@pa.gov

A huge thanks to our PAFPM Sponsors!



TETRA TECH



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us for the
most up to
date news!***

