



Upcoming Events

PAFPM Floodplain Management Symposium

March 16/17/18th
Virtual (Zoom)

[Register Here](#)

PAFPM Annual Members Meeting

March 18th
Virtual (Zoom)
12:00-1:30PM

[Zoom Link](#)

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

Happy New Year!

2020 was a year of evolution for PAFPM, the pandemic forced us into an entirely virtual presence which presented many unknown and unexpected challenges to the Board. All the challenges we faced were met and turned into stunning accomplishments.

We were able to reach more than 550 people via trainings and webinars, membership was increased by more than 25%, and we already have a great lineup scheduled for 2021. We also developed more diverse working partnerships with sister agencies including, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Association State Floodplain Managers, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, PA/DE Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors. Many thanks to our sponsors for 2020, Tetra Tech, NTM Engineering, and WSP, whose support never wavered through an uncertain year.

I am confident that 2021 will bring us good health and unity. I hope that some of you can find inspiration in the following.... If you are dedicated to a common goal... have teammates who believe in that same goal... and play as a team to reach that goal, anything is possible. I would like to thank our team for all their hard work and dedication in 2020.

Please see below to register for the Floodplain Management Symposium March 16th/17th/18th, 2021.

Stay healthy,

Daniel M. Distler CFM
Chair, PAFPM

NEW 2021 PAFPM Officers:

Chair: Josh Lippert, CFM, City of Philadelphia

Vice-Chair: Teri Provost, CFM, SEDA-COG

Secretary: Chelsea Blair CFM, Tetra Tech

Treasurer: William Bradfield, CFM, PEMA

March 2021 Floodplain Management Symposium – Register today!

PAFPM is offering this Floodplain Management Symposium to engage members and the flood community at large to prepare all our PA communities for the 2021 flood/hurricane season during National Flood Awareness Month.

When: March 16/17/18th from 9AM-12:30PM

Where: Virtual (Zoom)

Value: \$75 PAFPM Members/\$100 non-members

CEC's: 6-8 CFM credits

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Webinar Calendar 2021:

In 2021 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>JANURAY 13th <i>noon-1:30PM</i></p> <p><u>NJDEP: Blue Acres Webinar</u></p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p><i>Happy Winter!</i></p>	<p>MARCH 16th-18th</p> <p><u>PAFPM Floodplain Management Symposium</u> <i>Virtual Event</i></p> <p><i>National Flood Awareness Month</i></p>
<p>APRIL 21st <i>noon-1:30PM</i></p> <p><u>Hazard Mitigation Planning in Floodplain Management</u></p>	<p>MAY 19th <i>noon-2PM</i></p> <p><u>Floodplain Regulations in Building Codes</u> <i>Building Safety Month</i></p>	<p>JUNE 2nd <i>noon-1:30PM</i></p> <p><u>Risk Rating 2.0 Updates</u></p>
<p>JULY</p> <p><i>Happy Summer!</i></p>	<p>AUGUST 18th <i>noon-1:30PM</i></p> <p><u>Working for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Floodplain Management</u></p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p><u>PEMA/FEMA Grant Opportunities Webinar</u> <i>National Preparedness Month</i></p>
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p><u>Webinar TBD</u></p>	<p>NOVEMBER 3rd <i>noon-1:30PM</i></p> <p><u>Elevation Certificates + Dry Floodproofing Certificates Webinar</u></p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p><i>Happy Holidays!</i></p>

Do you have a webinar idea or a training need?

Send your ideas/needs to flood@pafpm.org

CFM Calendar 2021:

In 2021 we'll be striving to offer our members and the community at large CFM Exam opportunities. PAFPM will pilot [exam prep sessions](#), free to members this March. With the hope to offer these courses yearly during National Flood Awareness Month! To grow our CFM numbers from 170 to well over 200 by the end of 2021! Please check ASFPM.org for scheduled exam times/locations. Please note that PAFPM is having difficulty finding locations to proctor the CFM exam, due to COVID-19 impacts. If you have a location that meets the State's Health Department Guidelines, we'd be happy to proctor an exam. [Email us!](#)

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 Committee**

Community Spotlight:

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's Water Resource Center (WRC) was formed in 2013 to address growing concerns for stormwater management issues in the region. The WRC works diligently across 10 counties and 548 municipalities to provide technical assistance and educational resources, to serve as a regional information clearinghouse, and to provide a forum for regional coordination on water issues.



WRC has primarily focused on stormwater management issues over the last few years for many reasons, one of which includes an understanding that properly managed stormwater can possibly help decrease the severity of flooding in urban areas. The WRC has provided opportunities for communities to learn more about stormwater management and various flood resiliency topics like available grant funding to support hazard mitigation and disaster recovery, the ins-and-outs of the NFIP and CRS programs, floodplain mapping, ways to become more resilient, and insurance implications for homes both in and out of the regulated floodplain. Once educated, the municipal staff can provide information directly to their community members, and it is important that they have educational resources made available to them at no cost.



Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

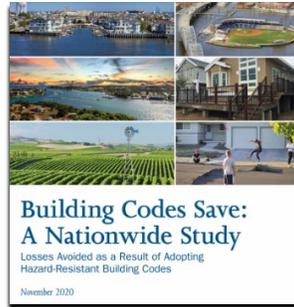
Since 2014, 22 flood and resiliency-related workshops have been offered by partnering with various federal, state, regional, and local organizations. These workshops have brought in experts to present on topics such as flood resiliency, holistic floodplain management, duties of a floodplain administrator, the NFIP, CRS, elevation certificates, hazard mitigation grants, grant writing, and Substantial Damage/Substantial Improvement.

To learn more about the WRC and flood-related educational materials visit spcwater.org

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

Send your stories to flood@pafpm.org

FEMA News:



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.

FEMA Releases National Risk Index: New Online Data Shows Natural Hazards Risks for Communities



This online mapping application analyzes risk factors from 18 natural hazards. Additionally, to provide a holistic view of community risk, the application includes expected annual losses, social vulnerability and community resilience layers.

[National Risk Index](#)

FEMA Nature Based Solutions



Building Community Resilience with Nature-based Solutions: A Guide for Local Communities

is a new guide developed by FEMA to help communities identify and engage the staff and resources that can play a role in building resilience with nature-based solutions. Whether it's working across various local government departments or tapping the strengths of non-governmental community partners, planning and building cost-effective nature-based solutions requires collaboration.

NFIP Granted Extension Through September 30, 2021

Senate extended the NFIP Authority through September 31, 2020 as part of HR 8337. The President signed the bill which continues the current authority and contains no reforms to the NFIP at this time.

New FEMA Code Bulletins:

- [Below-Grade Parking Requirements](#)
- [Non-Residential Floodproofing - Requirements and Certification](#)

PEMA News (Bill Bradfield Update):

As we close the door on 2020 and jump in with both feet on 2021, I can't help but look back at the past year of challenges and successes. Obviously COVID-19 dominated the news and disrupted almost every aspect of life. From a floodplain management viewpoint, the pandemic created some unexpected challenges with more people being home and limited travel options. Throughout the summer I received many calls about permitting swimming pools in the floodplain!

Looking at 2021 we hope to build on the momentum of 2020. Most everyone has now realized that virtual meetings and trainings are viable options. While I prefer in-person trainings and the engagement that comes along with them, the ability to offer virtual trainings across several platforms is a powerful option that offers flexibility. Now that we all know we can successfully pull off virtual options we hope to incorporate more into our future offerings.

Following the flooding from Tropical Storm Isaias in August 2020 there has been a renewed call to improve Pennsylvania's resiliency to flooding and climate change. In December 2020 Governor Wolf announced a plan to "[address flood hazard mitigation by requiring the State Planning Board to develop a series of recommendations and best practices relative to land use, planning, zoning, and storm water management, with the emphasis on reducing the incidence of flash flooding in communities that impacts citizens and businesses.](#)" The thresholds for federal aid keep rising and it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet these thresholds as a state. It is hoped that this new initiative will place more emphasis on the need for responsible land use planning and mitigation best practices to better protect lives and property and minimize the need for federal aid post disaster.

While on the topic of federal aid, we wanted to provide an update on FEMA 2020 Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant applications for Pennsylvania. PEMA received 108 Letters of Interest for these grants which was whittled down to the following:

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant applications:

- 5 Project Scoping
- 2 FMA Planning Projects
- 10 FMA Infrastructure Projects
- 3 Municipal Individual Home Acquisition projects
- 5 Municipal Home Elevation projects
- State ceiling is \$30 million federal share and PEMA is submitting over \$60 million in case some don't meet FEMA's satisfaction....

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant applications:

- 4 Project Scoping
- 7 Hazard Mitigation Planning Projects (with 2 County HMPs oversubscribed)
- 10 Gray & Green Infrastructure Projects
- State ceiling is \$50 million federal share and PEMA is submitting over \$100 million in case some run into unexpected minor issues for this new grant program (former FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program)

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.

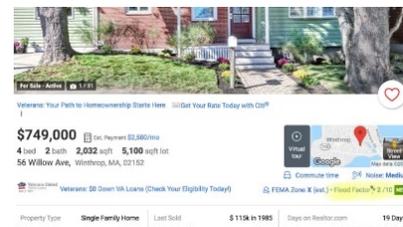
Please make sure your municipality completes the required form for the period of October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020. The deadline for submission of this form is **February 28, 2021**. Link to online [form](#). For more [information](#).

Announcements:



USGS Unveils Mobile Flood Tool for the Nation

The U.S. Geological Survey announced the completion of a new mobile tool that provides real-time information on water levels, weather and flood forecasts all in one place on a computer, smartphone or other mobile device. Forwarding for your information and use, see this platform [here](#).



Reator.com – Flood Risk Data for Homes

Realtor.com® announced the addition of new home flood risk data to its home shopping experience. This has implications for how buyers approach the home buying process and will enable additional future research on how home buyers consider this factor in their home search.



First Street Foundation – Flood Factor
[Flood Factor](#) is a free online tool created by the nonprofit First Street Foundation that makes it easy for Americans to find their property's risk of flooding and understand how flood risks are changing because of a changing environment. Our Mapping and Technical Committee did a review of this product [here](#).

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 FY20, the PA Silver Jackets Team submitted five Interagency Non-Structural Flood Risk Management proposals that were approved and funded and are now underway. The types of projects include ice jam training (which was held in December 2020), flood related training and exercises, flood risk outreach, and flood inundation mapping.

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: Josh Lippert, City of Philadelphia - joshua.lippert@phila.gov
- Central: Bill Bradford, PA NFIP Program Manager - wbradfield@pa.gov

PAFPM

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A huge thanks to our PAFPM Sponsors!



TETRA TECH

