Key Organizations & Contacts

Federal, state, and local entities all work together to promote sound floodplain development and increase community resiliency. Below are some key contacts involved in floodplain management.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**
FEMA is the federal regulating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This voluntary program provides flood insurance to residents while regulating development in the floodplain.

- **Region III**: Richard Sobota  
  richard.sobota@fema.dhs.gov  
  (215) 931-5514

- **Resources:**
  - Maps: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home  
  - Regulations: https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management-requirements  

**Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)**
PEMA is the state regulating agency for the NFIP and general flood mitigation efforts. They provide technical assistance and grants for hazard mitigation.

- **Tom Hughes**  
  thughes@pa.gov  
  (717) 651-2726

- **Resources:**
  - PA Emergency Preparedness Guide:  
  - Ready.gov: https://www.ready.gov/

**Insurance Services Office (ISO)**
ISO is contracted by FEMA to provide assistance to communities on the Community Rating System (CRS), which is a method for communities to reduce their residents’ flood insurance premiums by practicing proper or exceptional floodplain management.

- **Amanda Gowans**  
  agowans@iso.com  
  (443) 743-7993
Pennsylvania Insurance Department (PID)
The PA Insurance Department provides information and resources on both public (National Flood Insurance Program) and private flood insurance for property owners.

- Insurance Commissioner: Jessica Altman
  (717) 787-3289
- Resources:
  - PA Flood Insurance: https://www.insurance.pa.gov/Coverage/Pages/Flood.aspx

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
DEP handles permitting and natural resource protection.

- SW Region counties: Allegheny, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Washington, Westmoreland
  - Regional Director: Ronald Schwartz
    (412) 442-4000
- NW Region counties: Armstrong, Butler, Indiana, Lawrence
  - Regional Director: James Miller
    (814) 332-6945

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)
DCED used to be the state enforcement agency for the NFIP, but this responsibility has since moved to PEMA. DCED has resources on hazard mitigation grants and other planning resources. See SPC’s Funding Resources handout for more information on these grants.

- Marita Kelley
  markelley@pa.gov
  (717) 720-7301

Silver Jackets
Silver Jackets is a national organization, with regional/state chapters, that brings together federal, state, and local organizations to develop and implement flood hazard solutions. They offer many resources such as funding solutions, workshops, and educational material.

Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM)
ASFPM is a national organization that brings floodplain management professionals together for collaboration and education. They provide a plethora of resources to communities and professionals on floodplain management, from trainings to regulation to funding.

PA Association of Floodplain Managers (PAFPM)
PAFPM is the Pennsylvania state resource for floodplain managers. They support public education of floodplain management, provide educational events and meetings for professional education, and hold local events to encourage collaboration and dialogue between floodplain managers and other interested parties.

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)
The National VOAD brings together local organizations that work to provide support to communities affected by disasters. They provide communities with disaster relief guidance at all stages of a disaster – preparedness, response, and recovery.