

Data Report on the Pennsylvania Association of Floodplain Managers (PAFPM) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Implementation Survey

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For the last few months PAFPM has been running a survey to gather information from across Pennsylvania on issues and/or problems municipalities are experiencing while implementing the floodplain management requirements of the NFIP. The goals of this survey were to help identify broad problems municipal officials are experiencing as they work towards increasing flood resilience in PA and help PAFPM develop educational and training opportunities of interest to PA floodplain management professionals. Local floodplain managers and other municipal officials (e.g., municipal building code or zoning officials) working in the floodplain management space in Pennsylvania were recruited through email to participate. Survey responses were collected from July through December of 2023. 287 municipal officials from across the Commonwealth have completed the survey, with at least one survey from all but five counties (see Figure 1). This data report includes a subset of questions from the survey. Questions included are as follows:

- Q2: Are you the certified Floodplain Manager for your community? (pg. 3)
- Q4: Who do you communicate with most often at PEMA, if you need assistance? (pgs. 3-10)
- Q5: We are trying to assess the level of training received by local insurance agents that issue flood insurance policies in your community. Please check all applicable boxes for typical training that you are aware of for your insurance agent community. (pg. 11)
- Q7: What types of assistance has your community required in the past 5 years in regards to floodplain management and/or the NFIP program? (pgs. 12-21)
- Q8: Has your community ever applied for a FEMA grant? (pg. 22)
- Q8a: If you have applied for a FEMA grant, who wrote the grant, and/or managed the grant if you received it? (pgs. 22-24)
- Q9: Has your community ever applied for any other type of grant funding for floodplain management? (pg. 25)
- Q9a: If you have ever applied for any other type of grant funding, what was the grant? Who wrote and/or managed the grant if you received it? (pgs. 25-26)
- Q11: Does your floodplain management staff have sufficient technical resources? (pg. 27)
- Q11a: What is lacking and why? (pgs. 27-31)
- Q12: Does your floodplain management staff have sufficient training to execute the required tasks? (pg. 31)
- Q13: What are the most common floodplain permitting issues your community has to resolve, and what would be the most help to manage those issues? (pgs. 32-43)

- Q14: Would a member of your Floodplain management team be interested in Cost Benefit Analysis training? (pg. 44)
- Q16: How interested are officials in your community in floodplain property buyouts? (pg. 44)
- Q17: Is there any interest by your community's floodplain management team to explore aggregating floodplain management responsibilities to the county level? (pg. 45)
- Q18: Why or why not? (pgs. 45-55; Table 1: pgs. 45-50 & Table 2: pgs. 50-55)

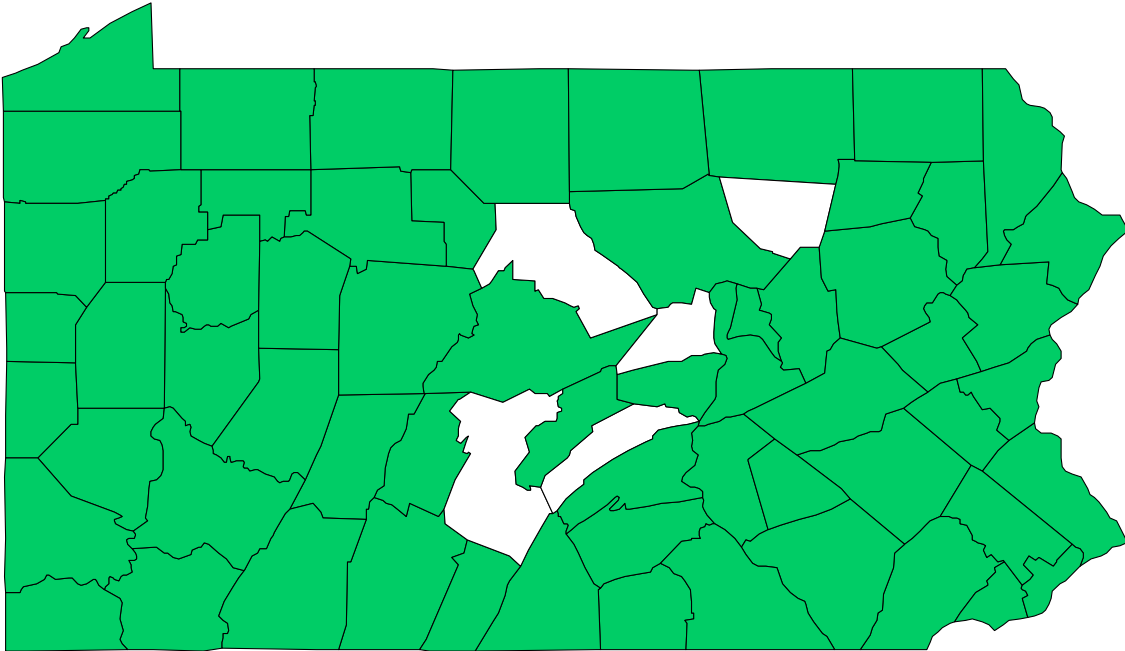


Figure 1: Map of counties in Pennsylvania with at least 1 completed PAFPM NFIP Implementation Survey.

Q2: Are you the certified Floodplain Manager for your community?

Yes	No	No Response
38.9% (n=109)	61.1% (n=171)	n=7

Q4: Who do you communicate with most often at PEMA, if you need assistance?

87 of 287 respondents left this question blank.

Contact Person at PEMA, FEMA, and/or County Officials
Emily Houdeshell
I go through our County EMA Officials who then contact PEMA for me.
Typically communicate with County Emergency Management Officials
Unknown
We rarely communicate with PEMA. Emily Fitzpartick
Gerry Burke and Tom Hughes
Emily Houdeshell, Leslie Rhodes
Nobody
We haven't had to seek additional guidance recently.
Emily Houdeshell
No
Tom Hughes
Swathi Karuppasami
No one
Tom Hughes
Only as needed communication
Emily Houdeshell
We are not located in a flood prone area.
Emily Houdeshell
Regional Coordinator
I do not typically communicate with PEMA

Contact Person at PEMA, FEMA, and/or County Officials

Tom Hughes

Emily Houdeshell | Acting State NFIP Manager

I have spoken to Emily Houdeshell, but my community is under a CAV so I get to speak to FEMA directly on a regular basis

Emily Houdeshell

Emily Houdsdell

I do not have anyone's specific name - I generally go to the web site to find what I need.

Local district office, if/when necessary

We rarely can communicate with PEMA but our local EM is a PEMA employee

The NFIP coordinator

I don't communicate very often; however, if I did need help I would reach out to Tom Hughes.

N/A

N/A; limited need for communication

Local EMA

No one

I'd go to FEMA before PEMA

FEMA -PEMA does not have the staff or expertise to cover the state's needs.

Go thru our county EMC

No one

Don't communicate with PEMA

Tom Hughes

County EMA

Bill Bradfield

Enest Szabo

Emily Houdeshell

N/A

Call as needed

Contact Person at PEMA, FEMA, and/or County Officials

Tom Hughes/Emily Houdshell, PEMA, David Warga/Josh Lippert FEMA

I have never contacted PEMA.

We have never had any correspondence with anyone from PEMA

Have not needed assistance.

Emily Houdshell

County EMA

First I start with Berks Emergency Management

After Dan Fitzpatrick retired I don't. The knowledge is not there that I am aware of. I rely on colleagues, other CFM's at local engineering firms and our local county conservation district.

Have not had the need

We don't....haven't needed to. Thankfully!

Emily Houdshell

Emily, Tom

Emily

I usually email Emily Houdshell

Tom Hughes

No need

State NFIP Manager

I have tried to contact Emily H. but have never had any emails or phone calls returned

Harrisburg office

Nobody yet.

Unsure

Philadelphia Regional Office - FEMA

Emily Houdshell

Do not know

No one.

Communicate with Ian Eppig through FEMA

Contact Person at PEMA, FEMA, and/or County Officials

Tom Hughes

Emily

N/A

Andrew Megonnel (County Emergency Management)

Bill Bradfield

Pa State Floodplain Coordinator

Leslie Rhoades

Nobody

I don't

Unknown

No one. We would work through the Cumberland County planning office, and or through our municipality's designated Emergency Coordinator.

County and PEMA if needed

Thru Luzerne County EMA

Tom Hughes

N/A - No one

N/A

No one at this time.

County Wide EMA office

No one

I have not communicated with anyone in PEMA

No one

Hasn't been necessary.

So far no communication with PEMA has been needed.

Tom Hughes and Gerry Burke

I generally coordinated most with our FEMA Region III representative.

The Fire Marshall communicates with the folks at PEMA. Unless it is flood plain regulations then I do.

Contact Person at PEMA, FEMA, and/or County Officials

I have been contacting Lee Brancheau from FEMA when I have questions, although I am on PEMA's email list for training and other information.

Usually have no need to communicate with PEMA

No assistance has been sought.

No specific person. Questions are directed to the email address supplied on the PEMA website.

County, PEMA, and FEMA Region3

We don't directly contact PEMA during an event, we go thru county.

Tom Hughes

Dauphin County Public Safety

I do not have a contact since the departure of Bill Bradfield.

Communicate up the chain through county, then if needed to PEMA but, need has not arisen.

It was Leslie Rhoads - haven't contacted in awhile

I talk to whoever answers the phone at PEMA or they will direct me.

N/A

Greg Showers

No One

First available person who answers phone call.

Fortunately, I have not had to contact PEMA.

Most of my communications are with the State Hazard Mitigation Officer or the staff.

Email

Typically attempt to locate info on-line rather than contact PEMA

Typically can't get answers when needed which is rare for the areas we serve

Unknown

Dependent on situation

I haven't had to communicate with PEMA. Although our Bureau of Fire Director does.

I have not had to communicate with PEMA.

Emily Houdeshell

Contact Person at PEMA, FEMA, and/or County Officials

No one

The PA State Floodplain Coordinator

N/A

I do not know who they speak with.

I have not had to talk to PEMA for some time so I do not have a specific contact that I use.

Don't know

When assistance is needed, calls are routed through the Luzerne County EMA office.

I have reached out to PEMA director on one occasion but have never received a response.

Our Municipal Engineer handles any floodplain management issues for our municipality. I don't know who they speak with at PEMA

Rarely - Never

Kevin McGowan

Joshua Lippert or the toll free number for FEMA Floodplain assistance.

N/A

Various

N/A

Unknown

Haven't communicated until recently with PEMA.

Yes

Have not needed to speak to anyone.

Emily Houdeshell

Rarely communicate with PEMA

20 years, never communicated with PEMA

Never had to communicate with PEMA

State NFIP Coordinator

Professionally know a PEMA employee

Leslie Rhoades

Contact Person at PEMA, FEMA, and/or County Officials

Currently, Emily Houdeshell

Emily Houdshell, Tom Hughes, Rick Deal

Have not needed to communicate with PEMA yet.

We do not normally communicate with PEMA directly. Communications are routed through the County EMA.

We have very little floodplain areas within the municipality and there has been no building in those areas

Leslie

Emily Houdeshell

Our local county EM contacts PEMA if needed.

Never had to. In past communicated with DCA/BFM and DCED when they administered floodplain regulations. But as per previous answer, we don't have floodplain issues.

Emily

Phone or email

I have not had to communicate with PEMA.

Wyoming County EMA office

Emily Houdeshell

Have never talked to anyone at PEMA

We have never called anyone needing anything.

N/A

Don't know, personnel change

Not sure.

PEMA representative - Emily Houdeshell

PEMA in general

No communication in over 10 years. Past attempt experience has proven to be futile.

No one

Local EMA

I do not know.

Contact Person at PEMA, FEMA, and/or County Officials

Emily Houdeshell

N/A

Rick Deal

I have in the past.

Yes

I have not needed to communicate with PEMA.

Emily Houdeshell

We contact our County EMA Director who handles contact with PEMA for us.

Local PEMA Contacts or FEMA Philadelphia Office.

N/A as of this date

Good Luck

Eastern Region

Unknown

Derek Shambach Snyder County EMA

There are no buildings in the floodplain, so I do not need to communicate with PEMA.

I have never communicated with PEMA.

Haven't needed assistance in over 20 years

No contact.

N/A

I have not had to request assistance.

N/A

Not applicable

Never had to

Have not had the need to communicate yet.

Q5: We are trying to assess the level of training received by local insurance agents that issue flood insurance policies in your community. Please check all applicable boxes for typical training that you are aware of for your insurance agent community:

Received training only when the insurance agent license was acquired	1.5% (n=4)
Received additional online training from a FEMA website	13.2% (n=36)
Received additional online training about Risk Rating 2.0 methodology	7% (n=19)
Unsure of any training required for insurance agents	84.2% (n=230)
No Response	n=14

Q7: What types of assistance has your community required in the past 5 years in regards to floodplain management and/or the NFIP program?

64 of 287 respondents left this question blank.

Types of Assistance Indicated by Respondents
Assistance with the new ordinance.
None
Funding assistance to acquire property.
None
None
None
We have had several declared flood events
General questions and clarification
None
Floodplain ordinance update review
Permitting questions
None.
None
Sharing the NFIP Map; zone location; information on purchasing flood insurance; review of building and zoning permits in all flood zones (including the SFHA) for compliance with our Flood Ordinance prior to issuance of any building or zoning permit; emergency procedures before, during and after a flood event; Emergency Preparedness Day (Flood Warning System) practice day; where flooding comes from;
Annual Flood Protection Project inspection by PA Dept of Environmental Protection.
None
HMGP floodplain buyouts
None
We had a community review
N/A
Mostly non-compliance issues.
Not sure

Types of Assistance Indicated by Respondents

Up to date mapping

None

We have worked directly with Tom's staff on a special project

Answer questions with regards to pools and fences

Determinations of electric 'service' within the SFHA if the panel/meter is above or outside the BFE. Whether portable toilets are or should be allowed seasonally within the SFHA

None, preparing for CRS audit

None

None

I am a new floodplain administer so I have needed a lot of assistance learning about the requirements of zoning in a floodplain and other compliances that are required.

Individual property owners with any damage or issues would have worked through their issues with FEMA representatives

Unknown

None

We would like to have a regular review of regulations but do not have this

Acquisition/demolition grant assistance and levee certification assistance.

None

None

Technical

None

None

None

None

None

Interpretation of regulations.

Clarity on how best to implement floodplain management as it is not a constant issue here. No assistance has been requested regarding the NFIP.

Types of Assistance Indicated by Respondents

Unsure

None

Unsure if any required/needed.

None that I am aware of.

No buildings applied for in those areas

Assistance in Floodplain Management Plan updates

FMA/Disaster grants/advise from PEMA/FEMA on flood plain permits

None

Received assistance for a property buy-out (due to repetitive flood loss/damage).

We have had two substantial flooding events in the last few years. We are working through the FEMA process now, but I am not aware of what took place in 2020 in regards to the NFIP.

None

LOMR, CLOMR

None

Floodplain Development Permit application review, mapping assistance, education, ordinance interpretation

None

None

Worked with Tom Hughes from PEMA because of a grant for mitigation.

None

None

Received guidance on Zoning Ordinance update to comply with FEMA requirements from PA Municipal League.

BRIC Grant, CDBRG

None in past 2-1/2 years.

ARPA Funds, Disaster assistance

Levee certification from FEMA

None

Types of Assistance Indicated by Respondents

Community Assistance Visit from FEMA, we are working with FEMA and PEMA to address shortcomings in the community's Floodplain management program

We needed more help with getting the training we need to correctly handle the regulations placed on us

Property acquisition

None

Making sure a new home was not put in the floodplain

Grant funding for stormwater management projects and stream bank stabilization.

Ordinance updating, FEMA/PEMA regulation clarification

None

Buy-out for one property.

None

None

Clarification on flood maps (mistakes with names of road, and the like); redevelopment of properties and compliance with the ordinance - sometimes drives any development away and the municipality does not have the money or wherewithal to demolish. FEMA only provides money for acquisition for homes LIVED in and not abandoned which is actually the best time to demolish for permanent open space; and there is no funding for acquisition for commercial or industrial properties - built right along the banks in the SFHA for acquisition and demolition - abandoned or not. Another great lost opportunity as if they are abandoned legal clearance is fairly easy to get as opposed to relocating people out of who do not want to leave; and frankly, abandoned is less expensive as there are no relocation costs.

General flooding

None

None

None

Occasional phone calls, PA State mandatory updates to ordinances, CRS, County Hazard Mitigation Plan

None

None

Types of Assistance Indicated by Respondents

That I know of none. The community is working to finish the floodplain project to help with small stream run off.

None, asked for some, was denied.

Municipality to our knowledge has never requested assistance, nor have any homeowners ever sought coverage under NFIP.

None

None

Response to questions on the program.

All assistance possible. Municipality size of less than 100 residents with virtually no available resources outside of volunteered time by resident council members.

None

None

None, thank goodness there has not been any terrible flooding

None, consulted flood plain maps

Only training

None

None

None

None.

None

Buyout grants application and administration

Generally, I've managed our participation in the NFIP program without assistance from PEMA. We may have requested some minor funding or technical assistance to help with nuisance flooding in the city, although we haven't had a major flood event in the last five years. We have begun consolidating resources towards the implementation of a dechannelization, widening, and naturalization project for a creek, which creates a floodplain running north-south through the center of the municipality.

The flooding that happened a few years ago. FEMA and PEMA were on site. Otherwise not much involvement.

Questions related to proposed development or upcoming map amendments.

Types of Assistance Indicated by Respondents

Unknown

None

Update of our Floodplain Ordinance

None

None

None - grant requirement are to much for a small community

N/A

Have to check with the hazard mitigator.

None

None

None

N/A

None

Municipal Manager applies for related grants.

N/A

I have administered the HMGP for multiple municipalities during the last 5 years.

I call my FEMA rep for assistance on floodproofing and elevation

Training of a county employee to administer floodplain review for multiple municipalities

Worked closely with FEMA to close out an open CAV.

None

None. Extremely low risk of flooding.

None

None

Don't know. Can't speak for the last 5 years, because of doing floodplain management in current community for only a year and 9 months

Flood disaster recovery, map amendments

N/A

Types of Assistance Indicated by Respondents

None

Ordinance revision/update

Questions of existing structures and flood proofing techniques

None

Very little. Only a small % of our municipal property sits in the floodplain

Grant monies have been received for stream bank stabilization projects, headwall replacements & other improvements within the flood way.

We have not required assistance in the past 5 years but I did attend a flood plain manager training seminar put on by PEMA and USACE in 2019.

None

We are currently disputing the proposed FIRM maps. In my opinion, insufficient consideration is being given to pumping stations and storm sewer capacity.

Guidance in A zone development.

None

Do not know

Engineer assisted us with preparing an updated flood plain ordinance.

Zoom Meeting with Joshua Lippert discussing loss claims and costs from past flood events.

None

None

CRS program and grants

N/A

Ordinance updating, recent flooding

Anything having to do with floodplain reviews, we use an engineering firm.

Grants Training/Education. CRS Community Support

Unsure

Grants

Grant funding for stormwater management projects.

None

Types of Assistance Indicated by Respondents

I don't think any assistance was received.

None

None.

N/A

We can always use support. Updated mapping notifications would be appreciated within our municipality

Assistance with preparing an updated floodplain management ordinance.

Received help with updating ordinance requirements which accompanied the 2020 flood map revisions for our community.

Advice on possible floodplain violations/interpreting the floodplain ordinance.

NONE

We are currently working to have changes made to the proposed FIRM maps.

None

Ordinance revision

None

None

None

FEMA CAV and follow-up resolutions required for compliance

None

The communities I cover have not required any assistance in the last 5 years.

We at the municipal level do not allow any structures in the flood plain

Ordinance review

Damage by Hurricane Ida

None

Nothing at all

N/A

None that I know of.

No assistance in the last 5 years

Types of Assistance Indicated by Respondents

Ordinance language clarification

Not much. Not too many activities that were not already cleared by engineering that the project was outside the floodplain.

None

None

None

Technical assistance regarding H&H studies, grant application and administration, assistance with ambiguous ordinance language.

None

Aware of none

We had technical assistance for a recent flooding event and met with PEMA to discuss what options there were for assistance.

None

None

None

None

Not sure

Not aware of any.

None

Required assistance with map change process

None to date.

Assistance from the 40" snow fall a few years ago.

None

Unknown

None

None

Obtaining the process of certification

Types of Assistance Indicated by Respondents

We had a home being built close to the floodplain. Our engineer made sure everything being done was out of the floodplain

None

None

None that I'm aware of.

None

None

None

N/A

Home Demolition

N/A

None to my knowledge, but I am still new.

Q8: Has your community ever applied for a FEMA grant?

Yes	No/Unsure	No Response
21.5% (n=61)	78.5% (n=223)	n=3

Q8a: If you have applied for a FEMA grant, who wrote the grant, and/or managed the grant if you received it?

2 of the 61 respondents who indicated they, or the municipality, had applied for a FEMA grant left this question blank.

Wrote/Managed
Municipal Manager and non-CFM local official/staff
Municipality
County planning department staff.
Economic Development Dept.
Unsure
Non-CFM local official/staff
CFM local official/staff
External consultant
Municipal Engineer
SEDA-COG
CFM local official/staff
No due to local match requirements and costs
Staff/Engineer
The stormwater engineer wrote and managed the grant.
CFM local official/staff
Municipal Manager and Municipal Engineer wrote grant
The Municipal Manager.
CFM local official/staff wrote and managed
Unsure, possibly Municipal Office of Emergency Management
SEDA-COG
Municipal manager for both

Wrote/Managed
The Assistant Municipal Manager
Municipal Manager who is also the Floodplain Manager (non-CFM)
Municipal Officials
CFM local official/staff wrote a grant for the fire department. Obviously nothing for a flood plain.
Road Director
External engineering consultant, Municipal Engineer
External consultant and municipal staff, awarded but funded
Municipal Manager
FIRE- w/help of grant writer insufficient staff and resources internally or funding
Engineer
Municipal official
I [external consultant] have written and secured HMGP, FMA and BRIC grants for many municipalities. Typically I manage the grants.
Hazard Mitigation Grant, County Official on County Regional Planning Commission
Numerous mitigation buyouts occurred after 9/2011 flooding event
It was not for a flood. it was probably for a snow event and I assume the manager applied for it.
Engineers
Floodplain mitigation grant by SEDA-COG
CFM local official/staff managed the grant. It was for damages in a storm event
The Assistant Municipal Manager
All applications and expenditures were handled by the Municipal Manager
Staff/Engineer
The Secretary/Treasurer manages the grant.
Supervisor/secretary
External CFM Consultant.
Municipal Manager

Wrote/Managed
Appointed engineer
The Assistant Municipal Manager
We received funds due to infrastructure damage related to a declared disaster. The Municipal manager was responsible for this funding.
Floodplain Administrator/mitigation project manager.
Municipal staff member.
We received assistance when the remnants of hurricane Ivan came through our area.
Several years ago, we had some flood damage to several culverts, we met with a FEMA Representative, who approved us for the grant.
The Municipal staff wrote and managed the grant.
Past municipal manager
Municipal Manager.
External consulting service
Non-profit external consultant
Municipal manager

Q9: Has your community ever applied for any other type of grant funding for floodplain management?

Yes	No/Unsure	No Response
10.9% (n=31)	89.1% (n=153)	n=3

Q9a: If you have ever applied for any other type of grant funding, what was the grant? Who wrote and/or managed the grant if you received it?

3 of the 31 respondents who indicated they, or the municipality, had applied for any other type of grant funding for floodplain management left this question blank.

Grant	Wrote/Managed
PEMA	Municipal Manager and non-CFM local official/staff
Flood Mitigation grant, H2O grant	Municipal Manager
PEMA	Went directly through legislator's office
Hazard Mitigation	Non-CFM local official/staff
No response	CFM local official/staff
Did not receive.	No response
PA DEP	Flood plain administrator
CFA Grants for bank stabilization and flood mitigation.	Municipal Officials
ICC	No response
No response	CFM local official/staff
CDBRG	Office of Emergency Management or Office of Sustainability
Mitigation funding	Non-CFM local official/staff wrote the grant alongside our third party engineer
Nitration	Municipal Officials
DCNR Growing Greener Plus	No response
It was about 25 years ago for a levee to prevent flooding. Levee never completed.	No response
Flood Protection Grant Act 13	No response
FMA Buyout Grant, Various other grants	Local government staff

Grant	Wrote/Managed
LSA grants, H20 grants and others	Non-CFM local official/staff
Acquisition grant, but the grant was never submitted due to lack of interest from the homeowners.	County government staff
CDBG money	No response
It was to create an historic floodplain area and to assess each property separately for its contribution or intrusion in historic area.	SEDA-COG
EDCDI Grant	County government
No response	Local government staff
This was almost 20 years ago following Hurricane Katrina flooding, and I was not here in that capacity.	
No response	Engineer
Flood mitigation grant Engineer / council	Engineer / council
No response	CFM local official
DCED Flood Mitigation Grant	External consulting company

Q11: Does your floodplain management staff have sufficient technical resources?

Yes	No/Unsure	No Response
48.8% (n=137)	51.2% (n=144)	n=6

Q11a: What is lacking and why?

196 of 287 respondents left this question blank.

Lacking
Available staff
Unsure
Not sure what technical resources are needed.
Technical knowledge, technology
We are a small community with limited staff. The expectation from FEMA in my opinion is overreaching and for small communities cost prohibitive. Additionally, many communities are fighting to survive and the restrictions and added costs of flood requirements hurt the residents.
Not sure, still training and learning from the past years the municipality processed floodplain issues.
Staff. Municipality is too small. No resources. Old ordinances.
Just getting into it, not sure
Basic understanding of the title
Unknown about floodplain
LOCAL training should be implemented as well as the increased online. Also, trainings should not be days long.
I have taken some training and see the benefits of taking more training. However, I am one person handling multiple responsibilities. I do not have the time to do this role as it should be done.
Basic knowledge
Funding
First - I am Flood Plain in a one person position. As I see a lot in small communities is what you have. No other staff, except when I ask for specific information. It would be equipment that makes it difficult to get due to cost.
Not a lot of time to attend training
We do not have floodplain management staff

Lacking

Not sure what resources are needed other than updated maps when available

First of all, there is no "staff," just me - and it's not my principal responsibility. And I don't know what I don't know.

We don't know what we don't know. Current IBC does not require an existing non conforming property to become flood plain compliant, that is to say that if a hot water heater is damaged in a flood, the municipality does not have the authority to require that the replacement hot water heater be relocated to a location that will prevent its damage in another flood.

Knowledge

Nothing that I know of

Hydrology and Hydraulics expertise. Lack of access to subject matter experts makes it difficult with regard to CLOMR review requirements and potential rise in BFE evaluations/analysis.

Accurate FIRMs - it is difficult to tell sometimes if a structure is within the flood hazard area or not.

Procedure issues

Training and guidance

Small municipality with limited funds

Actual municipal members designated to handle these issues.

If I knew, I wouldn't be "unsure."

Capacity is the issue - both financial and staff wise. The communities that have the most area in the floodplain are also those that have the smallest, less affluent tax base (why the taxes are lower as so much property is in the floodplain) so staffing and technical resources are extremely limited and third party engineering firms are RIDICUOUSLY high (cost) for their technical support. Staff is already over burdened so dedication solely to aid in this is simply not financially feasible.

Money

The floodplain area in the municipality is small and floodplain issues/questions are very rare. When there is an issue and I have questions I call Bill Bradfield for help. Training is good, but because the issues are few and far between, I have to look everything up for the new situation.

New to the position and unsure what this all is.

We have no floodplain management staff. WE are a municipality of only 225 people.

Lacking

We are a truly tiny rural municipality (201 full time residents in 20 square miles, most of which is DCNR State Forest or State Park). We immediately turn to the county for assistance, or might reach out to someone at FEMA if county points us in that direction.

N/A

We don't have a floodplain management staff. It's ran by only one person, myself.

I am the only one on staff.

Not sure what type of certifications Laurel Inspection Agency has

Not Sure

I am the only floodplain employee for my municipality.

Don't know what is lacking.

Funding

Understand of the practical implementation of FEMA model ordinance

Floodplain management staff holds multiple positions. There is no dedicated staffing towards floodplain management.

We have nothing, the last 20 years of supervisors buried their heads in the sand. We have three new supervisors that want to develop a program.

Local contact for when issues arise

Our only resource is the FEMA website and a phone call. We have no technical equipment. We depend on our surveyor to make sure the elevation is sufficient.

Not sure what all might be applicable to us.

Two of the three Supervisors are new.

The problem in PA is that the NFIP program is administered at the local level. Most PA municipalities lack sufficient staff to manage daily activities let alone the requirements of the NFIP.

Training on elevation, floodproofing. Depend on land surveyor to help with elevation.

Data is not easily available; as floodplain maps are updated there is no communication with the property owner/owners which is extremely challenging

Limited to no flooding.

I won't know what we don't have until we need it and it would be lack of resources. We are a very small municipality.

Lacking

I'm not sure who the current manager is. I believe they no longer work here so, unknown if there's a deputy

We do not have a management staff. We are an office of 3 people handling all of the government functions.

We do not have a specific floodplain manager.

Assistance with using the floodplain maps for residents would be helpful. They typically ask their insurance agents, but it is not always current information.

Information relative to increased frequency and severity of rain events. We still use Tropical Storm Agnes of 1972 as our benchmark.

Have to check with the Municipal Engineer

Do not know if Flood Plain Management is relevant to my community

Training and time

I think it should be a county based program

Unsure

Personnel Resources

Technology issues

We do not have floodplain management staff

Up to date interactive mapping within the County GIS parcel Map Viewer.

Unsure

Essentially, we are lacking the staff to adequately manage damage evaluations related to storms or floods. Additionally, there may be a desire to become participating members of the CRS but we do not have enough staff to manage that.

Updated training, additional staff, updated mapping

Unsure where to access the information.

Not sure.

Haven't had need for resources.

Our rural communities do not have 'staff' and are more reactive than proactive.

Overall basic information - were never approached until now.

Lacking

Updated training and or a new flood plain administrator will be needed soon. Tech help would be required, forms, basically starting from scratch would be good for us.

We have one location in our Municipality that floods, if we have a thunderstorm in the local area that causes the Creek to crest, a UNT that empties into the Creek Backs up and floods a local road. If you are in a car, you cannot cross the road, if you have a pickup, you can cross. The never never is deep enough to flood any homes. This is not a big issue for us!

Do not know what we would need.

We have a hard time filling this position and so that leaves it onto the secretary that doesn't really know much on this floodplain business

Not sure what technical resources could be needed.

We depend on our land surveyors to know of land elevation. Not always sure of flood proof material.

I assumed Stormwater position as I am municipal staff. We give out very few permits a year and haven't had any in the floodplain area recently. I do have a floodplain map and check before I issue permits. If I had any inquiries about floodplain insurance and I wasn't sure, I would call the County and receive direction from them. However, I have not had any inquiries. There is no additional staff. We're a small community.

We have a flood plain ordinance that we enforce and beyond that I have no resources

Money

Money and Time

Umm... "unsure" means that I don't know.

Local in-person classes

Not sure

We do not have staff or time dedicated to stay aware of all things needed. Very small municipality.

Q12: Does your floodplain management staff have sufficient training to execute the required tasks?

Yes	No/Unsure	No Response
48.4% (n=136)	51.6% (n=145)	n=6

Q13: What are the most common floodplain permitting issues your community has to resolve, and what would be the most help to manage those issues?

75 of 287 respondents left this question blank.

Most Common Floodplain Permitting Issues
Unsure
We don't have any issues. We have just a small area that falls in a 100-year floor zone. Municipality is built on a hill.
Encroachments, infill of floodplain. Educational materials for public
Floodplain determination
Construction/excavation in flood areas
Identification by staff and pre-identification by land use or zoning officer or township officials.
Improvements
Unsure
Typically accessory structures and reviewing potential substantial improvement renovations.
Substantial improvements
Accessory structures, new homes
No issues.
We authorize in our Floodplain Ordinance that technical assistance from a licensed engineer can aid the Floodplain Manager in all reviews of building permits and zoning permits. The increased cost of development in properties that existed BEFORE there were flood zones, but that are critical to our tax base, due to our own requirements.
The delinquencies in our floodplain inspection of our creek, including repairing concrete cracking, removing sediments and unwanted vegetation, installing flapgates to drainage outlets, improve channel bank erosion and eliminate animal burrows.
Construction in the area of floodplains.
What are the permitted uses in the floodplain/flood way
N/A
Cost for homeowners or businesses. Knowledge of intricate rules and policies.
Cumulative impervious and ensuring properties in floodplain follow proper floodproofing protocol
A detailed flood study with Base Flood Elevations

Most Common Floodplain Permitting Issues

Map Changes for development in a floodplain, and obtaining clear and definitive guidance from FEMA for non-typical situations.

Building in floodplain. Building without permits.

Buiding in the flood plain

Is it permissible to have a camper parked (seasonally) in the floodway if it meets all the requirements (licensed, inspected, roadworthy etc.). How to find the elevation of a site w/o hiring a surveyor.

Process. Determining what our process is, what are fees are and getting staff up to speed

Have not issued any permits regarding the floodplain. Have never allowed construction within the floodplain.

Unsure

A large percentage of our community is determined to be in a flood zone. I am still learning what zoning compliances and floodplain requirements are to be followed when residents are submitting zoning permits.

My community has a public park in the floodplain, and their projects are always challenging. Also, residential fences are not permitted and it angers some property owners.

Floodplain and building

No development occurring within floodplain by Code. Deal mostly with existing properties within floodplain and impacts post significant storm events.

Determination of flood boundaries. Property owners in low income areas have no money to do this and we cannot determine for them. There should be resources for these property owners to make the determinations themselves.

Floodplains are typically occupied by low-income families as floodplain properties are generally within their affordability level. When the owners have issues with their homes that they need to repair, for example, new windows, roof, and a porch. This can easily exceed the 50% improvement threshold which would require them to elevate their home or comply to the fullest ability. They're barely able to get the loans to make the improvements, let alone elevate a home. So, do we force them to let the home fall apart over their heads, or do we let them make what is essentially regular repairs? Lets face it, every home will require reroofing and porch replacement as well as many other regular repairs. This shouldn't count as improvements in my opinion. That being said, I understand the intent of the NFIP is to force people to elevate or walk away from their homes so that the government may save billions of dollars in recovery monies paid out repeatedly over and over again.

Most Common Floodplain Permitting Issues

I have at times reached out to our professional engineer for their 'expertise' however I do not have confidence that they are providing me with good answers. I don't feel they understand the requirements of NFIP either.

Water issues from heavy rains not in the recognized flood plain

None. Very small floodplain.

N/A

Lanes washing out onto township roads

Substantial improvement

Fill and construction without permits

Our water shed area needs to be remapped. It was supposed to be done a few years ago by FEMA and was never done

None

Cost of the certification for the permit

I deal with a small community that over 40% in a flood district. Some parts historical. But mostly the why do you want to destroy this 40 by buy out and the raising of the building have been major floods and still standing. The SI/SD programs, has been noted that if we I go over the SI/SD, the government will then allow my house to run down and in time, will have a home to be condemned and need to be torn down. This would also cause the elected official to lose tax income.

Nonconforming floodplain construction

Elevation

When the floodplain ordinance is required, and what that looks like in construction. I would always appreciate an annual 101 type course.

Getting a floodplain elevation certificate

Administrative burden on enforcing floodplain requirements for "smaller" projects. (i.e. minor business sign applications, etc.)

Most commonly, secondary permits (sheds, fences, etc.) within the 100-year flood zone.

Building above the free board height

Don't have many, if any permit applications to build in the floodplain

Non-permit violations, guidance on challenges to FPO, fence guidance

Most Common Floodplain Permitting Issues

Building Permits within floodplain

Don't really have any "issues:" the Zoning prohibits development in the Special Flood Hazard Area.

Illegal construction activity. We learn about an improvement that was made only after a flooding event has occurred.

My community's floodplain area is so small we have never had any applications submitted and no permits have been issued.

Landowners not aware of flood zones and building requirements

None

People like trying to put manufactured homes in the floodplain, updated guidance on acceptable pier/anchoring design would be great, especially if it incorporates (or discusses) more recent technology/design advances

Sheds in floodplains

We really don't have issues. Most inquiries are for accessory structures and educating the applicant.

None yet

Nothing that I know of

None.

Fill placement, and CLOMR requirements

Property owners. No one wants to follow the rules. They think that since they pay taxes they can do whatever they want. And sometimes, the commissioners agree with them and think that the flood restrictions are too harsh. Also, many structures are already in place so it is difficult for people to understand that they need permits even to upgrade their kitchen even though a building permit is not required.

Whether permits are required and different situations - fees are biggest issue right now

Most people that live in a floodplain are low income and when they are trying to improve the only house they can afford, they are denied unless they pay even more money to meet the floodplain ordinance requirements for mitigation. At times this leads to the owners letting the house become significantly dilapidated and ultimately the houses become abandoned. I believe that is exactly what FEMA wants to happen.

No problems

Most Common Floodplain Permitting Issues

Addressing and enforcement of un-permitted work; developing the SOP for floodplain management in accordance with NFIP; most help would be funding assistance to address program shortfalls.

Not being to understand the hidden requirements and unclear wording in the regulations

Minimal Development in the Municipality's Floodplain

Where exactly the flood plain ends and buildings can be built

Zoning Hearing Board applications for construction within a flood plain. We have a setback requirement of 1/2 the required setback distance from closest point on the flood plain. Ae: if the rear setback is 25', the setback is 13.5' from the flood plain line.

Only a small portion of our Municipality is in a designated area according to FEMA maps

Lack of clarity in what FEMA deems "development" that requires a permit.

None

None, we have not permitted anything in a floodplain area, in the last several years

Redevelopment and compliance with our floodplain management ordinance- sometimes drives developers away and we are left with empty, decaying buildings. Technical assistance, funding for PROPER redevelopment compliance for those seeking to redevelop.

We are not in a flood plain so there have not been any issues

The floodplain area in the municipality is small and floodplain issues/questions are very rare. When there is an issue and I have questions I call Bill Bradfield for help. Training is good, but because the issues are few and far between, I have to look everything up for the new situation.

Existing Structures Retrofit/alterations

People not knowing a Floodplain permit is necessary. We need more advertisement on the permitting process.

N/A

Anything with DEP.

We haven't had any conflicts so far. The areas within a FEMA floodplain mostly belong to DCNR, including State Park buildings as well as a few "seasonal cabins"/"leased campsites" containing private structures on land leased from DCNR. Anyhow, no one has built anything that came into conflict with existing regulations.

Not or no permits being issue

N/A

Most Common Floodplain Permitting Issues

The most common floodplain permitting issues relate to accessory structure and/or fences in the floodplain. The next most common issue relates to obtaining elevation certificates and/or LOMAs and LOMRs

Knowledge of floodplain requirements and approving permits located in special hazard flood zones.

We have a very small area that is in flood plain. No homes.

None at this time.

We do not permit in floodplain zones

Just building to the requirements. We have very to no building actives in the flood area.

Do not issue any permits in the floodplain

None currently

Work done inside the homes that is not reported to us.

People trying to build in the floodplain without consulting DEP, having a site visit or getting the proper permits. Not sure what would assist in the management of those issues.

Erecting fences, sheds other accessory buildings without first applying to the Zoning Officer / flood plain mgr.

Determine substantial improvement and damage assessment and application of the floodplain ordinance (when to raise a structure)

The Municipality has thousands of properties in the floodplain; the primary permitting issues are the installation of minor improvements (fences, ADA ramps, etc.) and the substantial threshold, which limits the amount of investment that property owners are able to make before requiring floodproofing which is, from a practical purpose for many owners of attached rowhomes, infeasible.

Work in a floodplain (grading, pools, modification to structures)

CLOMRs, LOMRs, LOMAs, and Elevation Certificates are often required when I can't deter a project from the floodplain. Continuing Ed training.

None; the existing floodplain areas in our jurisdiction are not buildable properties.

Educating the people wanting to live by the river.

Property owners are unaware of the permitting requirements for structures within a floodplain. Educating property owners participating in the NFIP that there are special permitting requirements for any improvement to the property.

Most Common Floodplain Permitting Issues

Fill or construction without a permit

Accessory structures. Information from insurers at property closing that explains the general floodplain development requirements would be helpful.

Relaying all development that requires a floodplain permit. We would like to offer a venue for education.

People doing projects without first getting a permit.

Shed placement near floodplain. Very old community so no new construction is able to be performed in the current floodplain area.

None that I am aware of

Elevation and knowledge of materials used for floatation in building.

I believe our municipality has been able to navigate the permitting process fairly well. In most instances we prohibit many uses within the floodplain.

We have not had any permits issued in the floodplain in 5 years.

Public / permit applicants understanding FIRMETT prior to application submittals. Updated maps for all to understand.

We do not have a large floodplain area.

Communities are unaware of the requirements of the NFIP including the issuing of flood plain permits. None are prepared to address a disaster situation.

Replacing buildings that are in flood zones to the current standards

Coordination with third-party building permit agencies to ensure permits are not being approved without floodplain review taking place. We have addressed some of this issue by reviewing stormwater and floodplain concurrently and establishing communication channels with all the municipalities regarding the process.

Legacy development/structure improvements which do not meet regulations. On-going issues with residents wanting to do development not allowed by regulations. I don't know the best way to reach the community. Many folks feel the "right" to develop their property and see this as draconian interference. The biggest problem I see is trying to overcome the perception of meddling in private property rights. Similar to the "save the bay" campaign. I see a persistent thought process of "how does my small project add to the issues". Not enough understanding how small, seemingly inconsequential projects create exponential impacts when taken in totality

None. There was a change in our floodplain maps a few years back, due to old dams being removed. We have had no flooding since that time.

Most Common Floodplain Permitting Issues

Elevation certs. But we have very few permitting issues.

We've had no permitting issues

Construction of new and improvements to existing to residential homes

Construction without permits and Substantial improvements

The Borough does not significant development in flood prone areas.

Typically once we educate applicants for commercial projects on the requirements of the floodplain ordinance they most often are able to adjust their design to avoid the floodplain. For residential projects, it can be more difficult to get buy-in from applicants, and most of the projects are very small like fencing and decking.

Remodeling of existing structures and flood proofing

Having a better understanding of the flood maps, and what can be permitted.

Permitting for proposed camp sites and rehabilitation of existing structures

Building in a flood plain

Unsure. However; just received info. from DEP regarding Flood Plain management and the issuance of permits in Flood Plain areas.

Accessory building requests. We require the setback for any structure to be measured from the flood plain limit and not the property line.

Building code considerations in the flood plain would be helpful to have accessible.

Don't know

During my tenure the only permit applications received for work in the floodplain have been for fences.

Expanded base flood elevation information

We don't have many issues- we're 100 percent built out and have very few buildings in the flood plain

Never had an permit submitted

Building owners doing work without permits and not complying with the Building Code and Floodplain Regulations. Lack of support by elected officials to enforce the Building Code and Floodplain requirements. Lack of personnel to patrol to catch building owners doing work in the floodplain without permits.

Accessory structures

Most Common Floodplain Permitting Issues

Issuance of zoning, building, and floodplain permits. Very restrictive and citizens get very frustrated with not being able to do certain things.

50% substantial improvement issues.

Building codes

15 ft from toe of levee / Zoning

Only two issues in 20 years. Majority of properties listed in the floodplain don't have buildings in the floodplain or the portion of the parcel is at a significantly lower elevation.

Determining residential use and development of properties within the Floodplain and help when there are flood events with loss and mitigating to reduce loss in the future.

None at this time.

Changes to or inaccuracy of FIRMETT. Accessory structures. Better info for the public to understand. Better all around training for all stakeholders associated with flood plain management.

Accessory structures such as fencing, shed and play structures.

Properties or areas of properties near the Floodplain or Floodway or zone that have significant elevation differences not depicted within the mapping and requiring residents to gain LOMA.

Those responsible for reviewing plans or dealing with Floodplain administration issues do not understand the regulations or when a permit is necessary. Even when a community does have a competent floodplain administrator, municipal staff receiving the development information doesn't understand what it is and it often gets approved without the Floodplain Administrator even seeing it.

Unsure

No permitting issues

Most permitting issues are related to substantial improvements and getting the applicant to understand that process. We issue very few floodplain development permits.

There should be clear maps provided to every property owner whose property is in flood zone when insurance is paid so that they know what portions of their property lie within the flood zone. This information should be a part of their flood insurance policy and they should have to sign to acknowledge it. There is more required for carpenter ants than floodplains with mortgages.

Adding fill in a floodplain and also erecting fences within a floodplain. A local liaison who we could call or email with these questions would be helpful.

Most Common Floodplain Permitting Issues

When a flood occurs, homeowners with flood insurance receive payment just by filing a claim. I believe the claim payout should be contingent upon obtaining the required permits (zoning and building code) to ensure that whatever repairs or rebuilding is done is in accordance with floodplain regulations/flood proofing building code measures.

Floodplain violation/non-permitting the floodplain

N/A

Fortunately, there are no structures in the floodplain. The Municipality's zoning ordinance prevents construction in the floodplain.

None

Elevation

Grading in the floodplain

None

We have no issues. We only have a few houses in the mapped floodplain. None were damaged by the 3 major River floods in the 2000s. 1 house is in the floodplain of a major stream. It's 200 years old and still standing.

Enforcement of undocumented improvements within the SFHA

We don't have floodplain permitting issues.

Confusion of permit requirements at the State level

Unaware of any at this time.

We have not had any issues in the last 6 years.

N/A

We don't allow building in the flood plain!

The is offering assistance

The 50% substantial improvement/damage process

The mouth of Creek at the River is choked with sediment causing slow down/backups in Creek. Scouring of banks in events.

Understanding process now for new construction applications in zone A or AE floodplain. Provide clear simple guidance not books full of gibberish.

There are no major permitting issues. Stop producing confusing regulations that seem to be afflicted with never-ending changes and requirements.

Most Common Floodplain Permitting Issues

The floodplain area needs reassessed

Construction taking place without permits.

Insurance costs

Land disturbance

Work done without a permit.

Property owner's lack of understanding of flood plain requirements

Building in a floodplain

Additions to existing structures located in the floodplain, or new structures or grading in floodplain areas.

Stormwater flooding, drainage issues, bridges and road flooding. Funding would be helpful to build bridges and stormwater pipes for flow of water.

What is acceptable for elevation

When someone wants to build in a floodplain

I've been here for over 10 years and the only issues I've had to address are questions about wetlands when giving permits. I have been able to get answers and address those.

None

Permits related to building permits.

Education of residents/property owners.

N/A

Contractors and homeowners doing work without permits in the floodplain areas. Municipality does not have any full-time personnel to monitor illegal construction activities.

Building without permits and previous zoning officers & building code officials not checking flood maps before approving permits.

Small storage buildings and some fill areas

Low volume

Building in the Floodplain

None at this time.

Issuing elevation certificates for properties in Zone A with no BFE. Coordinating with property owners applying for LOMR or LOMA.

Most Common Floodplain Permitting Issues
Cost of Construction
Replacement of bridges
None
There are existing buildings in two small areas in AE and/or AH zones. Except for that, we do not allow any construction in floodplains.
Making sure the owner doesn't make repairs to existing homes to reach 51% of value.
Permitting has not been an issue within our community.
Floodplain development or home renovation
Building permits
Am in training for flood plain management.

Q14: Would a member of your Floodplain management team be interested in Cost Benefit Analysis training?

Yes	No	No Response
50.2% (n=131)	49.8% (n=130)	n=26

Q16: How interested are officials in your community in floodplain property buyouts?

Mean (n=257)	Standard Deviation	No Response
1.54	1.44	30

Likert Scale Choice	0 - Strongly Not Interested	1	2	3	4	5 - Strongly Interested
Frequency	83	54	54	38	19	9

Q17: Is there any interest by your community’s floodplain management team to explore aggregating floodplain management responsibilities to the county level?

Yes	No	No Response
42.6% (n=113)	57.6% (n=152)	n=22

Q18: Why or why not?

97 of 287 respondents left this question blank.

Table 1:

Why Interested in Aggregating to County-Level
Too small of a staff to handle and address this along with many other duties.
More staff and finances
Use but don't trust a county office at this point.
We already perform this duty for appx 20 municipalities.
We are small in staff size and we do not have the capacity that is required to adequately PLUS, manage this
Staffing limitations to become certified in floodplain management
Better staffing and resources to handle.
We have gone through the process in the past and it has proved to be valuable.
All the reasons mentioned above.
Yes due to lack of staff No due to lack of control
To provide additional assistance
I think this would help our community since we do not have a certified floodplain manager and with staffing issues, could use the county's help with this topic.
I believe that this would be a good thing for the county level to be in charge of as there are over 30 municipalities in this County. Most of these are unstaffed. I believe it would create consistent management of the Flood Plain.
Our county floodplain manager has had many more years of experience. I refer questions to him often.
Yes it would be easier to have the county do this because I'm unsure of what needs to be done
The flooding impact is from a 23-square mile drainage area but less than 2 is within our community. Our community is the lowest point in the watershed and we are adjacent to the

Why Interested in Aggregating to County-Level

We don't have enough staff or money to do this locally. We don't have access to grants that the county does.

PA has 2,560 individual municipalities. MOST zoning officers wear multiple hats and are assigned this role. The NFIP is important; however, we do not have the time to properly implement the requirements of NFIP, much less the other responsibilities we have.

We are a small community, limited staff time. County could have several employees to provide consistent service.

We are a small community and do not have the resources.

Sharing of resources with other small municipality

Yes, to cost and training especially when it comes to CRS.

Municipality already relies on the County.

County-level management, due to the greater number of properties impacted, may have sufficient justification to employ a dedicated, fully-trained and certified staff member.

Would be very beneficial to all local small municipalities

Lack of staff.

Possibly, better enforcement/implementation in other communities benefits all communities.

Effective floodplain management requires a certain amount of experience. Our floodplains are relatively small, so there's not enough floodplain work to keep one person occupied full-time. A County-level office would achieve economy of scale and be more cost-effective and

State and federal responsibilities are regularly handed down to municipalities that are ill equipped to handle the issues that arise from them. A county wide agency would have more experience dealing with the issues.

19 municipalities have already done this, the remaining municipalities are either not interested in participating in the County's services or have not yet discussed the possibility.

It should be controlled by the county

We currently work with the county for EOP purposes and would like to incorporate the floodplain also, if not already included

The municipal staff is overworked to begin with. Adding more restrictions we now have to enforce is difficult.

Since we do not have a CFM, having the county handle the process, issuing permits, developing fees, and having the municipality help doing assessments should flooding occur, that would help our municipality greatly!

Why Interested in Aggregating to County-Level

Our county is partially zoned. The zoned municipalities (subset of total # of municipalities in county) have a common flood plain administrator. The county explored a county wide manager and was concerned that they would not have sufficient control over development in the unzoned municipalities to properly enforce floodplain activities.

Because we do not have a floodplain manager

We have so little floodplain management tasks that it's difficult to maintain relevant skills and knowledge at the municipal level.

As I am also responsible for zoning and building code compliance, it is always good to have another set of eyes - not related to building codes and zoning ordinance review.

Yes, this would provide EQUAL enforcement. Many developers won't come here as we enforce our floodplain management ordinances FULLY and yet in neighboring communities, they are being welcomed and are NOT complying at all with any floodplain ordinances for properties in the floodplain. So they get all the "cool" developments and increase in tax base, and we are left with vacant, decaying properties. I would also like to expand on why we are NOT interested in floodplain buyouts. There isn't enough money to take enough out to actually provide ANY significant improvement to the floodplain. We were told perhaps enough to buy 3 properties a year - 25% of the land area is in the floodplain; over five hundred properties and 3 a year???? Not worth the hassle and blowback from the community. And who chooses the three when you have five hundred who would love to be bought out??? This was set up for disaster from the beginning.

We would love county involvement

Any help would be great..

Not sure what exactly this means but I'm always in if it betters my community

Would be interested in hearing about it so we can provide the best opportunities for the people in our community.

The positives of County responsibility would be to reduce workload on individual employees of the municipality. There would most likely be an issue conveying information to residents and organizing approvals from the county on small permits.

Unsure, but, interested in learning more

Municipality has limited resources

The flood plain management is too complex for one person to handle. If you work for a firm, the municipality doesn't want to pay you for the required services to complete your job the way you expect us to.

Our floodplain area is small.

Why Interested in Aggregating to County-Level

Small staff and cohesive rules in the County

Shared services are more effective.

FEMA will need to allow this for PA esp for CRS credit

We don't have a tax base to do anything.

Not enough time at staff level to enforce regulations.

I am responding on behalf of many small municipalities. I believe all would look favorably on the county administering the NFIP program since the municipalities are overwhelmed with their current responsibilities. However, working with many counties, especially rural areas, the counties are not currently prepared to assume the responsibility. The benefit of using counties is that they have more resources and a more stable workforce.

To feel more confident in my decisions

This is already being done for about two-thirds of the municipalities, but there is a little reluctance for the final one-third to pass that responsibility on.

Pennsylvania system of local governments discourages county level oversight....everyone wants to be "in charge" and retain autonomy. Following up on buy outs, we lost significant tax revenue due to dozens of buyouts. We also have to maintain those properties forever. The multiple levels of lost revenue handicap small municipalities forever, while a buy out saves money only for FEMA and the NFIP participants. Buy outs should come with a financial subsidy for the lost revenue.

County has more resources

More resources.

More consistent administration of regulations; a county agency could be more on top of changes in policy and regulations

Community is a fairly large one in comparison to most communities in Pennsylvania in terms of population size and number of properties. Any delegation/assistance is useful and helpful.

I do not have the training or the time to currently obtain the training necessary

Shortage of available manpower in local municipality

We are a very small office and cannot dedicate the time that should be

Because we do not have a floodplain management team.

I am the only staff member and County assistance would be appreciated.

No capacity at the local level

Why Interested in Aggregating to County-Level

As the appointed floodplain administrator, I am always interested in getting more information and training. Allocating time for training is difficult as I am assigned to 4 municipalities as a Building Code Official.

Regionalization

Pool resources for funding

Improvement in the community reduce loss

Maintaining an "expert" staff would be cost prohibitive for our municipality.

Not sure what this aggregating implies, but we are always interested in working with other communities for floodplain mitigation.

Development within these areas of the community is rare as the community is mostly built out, but county & state infrastructural improvements greatly effect the current floodplain, additionally due to the rarity of the built out property alterations, maintaining Floodplain management responsibilities up to date is difficult.

Because it could be managed consistently from one municipality to the next, hopefully by a staff who has more time to dedicate to it.

Whenever we can have additional staff to review floodplain development or be involved in the management, the more effective it can be.

Yes. We do not have enough staff locally to aggressively enforce floodplain management, and sometimes it is a regional issue.

I work for a County Planning Department. We are currently the floodplain manager for multiple municipalities.

We are a very small community. County has more resources and can handle this better than we can.

We have quarterly meetings with our County EOC concerning flooding and hazard mitigation.

Maybe

Centralization

More uniform & consistent enforcement

Administering the floodplain management is a lot of work for our small staff. Working with the County would help, especially for smaller communities.

We do not have the funding or resources to handle the issues. Our residents are not interesting in paying for stormwater fixes.

Why Interested in Aggregating to County-Level

Staff time constraints

For the ability to have people that are already trained to handle our issues

Our small township needs more personnel. The county officials may have better enforcement powers and more personnel to monitor floodplain violations.

The county has more resources

Our "floodplain management team" is one person who does floodplain-related tasks MAYBE 1% of the time. Our floodplain area is too small to make it worth our while to keep current on FEMA/PEMA requirements and the time required for training sessions is not cost-effective.

County has full time staff dedicated to this area of expertise.

I would imagine they would since they re cash strapped.

Basic knowledge and understanding is my goal. However, if I see the need for more information I would contact a person from the County level.

Table 2:

Why NOT Interested in Aggregating to County-Level

Unknown

Parochialism

Never thought of letting the county do it

It's a zoning, building code issue as well and it's all needs tied together. Separating out the FP management on it's own will just complicate and confuse applicants

The challenge to a county wide floodplain management approach is that the county does not regulate county wide zoning or building code administration. Without that oversight it was deemed difficult to capture all development that may be located in flood zones.

Unsure

Concerns about the ability of county staff to competently perform duties.

We are not in a flood plain area.

The community is not aware that this is an option.

Why NOT Interested in Aggregating to County-Level

County encompasses a large and vastly different geography and geology, including the River. Until or unless the County is also responsible for day to day construction permitting, there will be too much disconnect with a municipality permitting or allowing something the county must or should regulate. There isn't enough communication to pull that off successfully.

The county can't keep up with the tasks they already have and they're very politicized.

No occupied buildings in the floodplain, only vacant lots.

We have a lot less properties in the floodplain than other areas in our county

Too much bureaucracy on County level

That would remove power that they have now. Not recommended.

Concerns with the County's ability to react quickly enough and what that coordination would look like.

County already notifies municipalities about permits in the floodplain.

Smaller municipality and would be a cost to assign responsibilities to the County level.

It's too small of an area and not really developable.

We don't have many issues with flood problems

We are the biggest municipality in our County. We do our own management. Most of the other municipalities rely on engineering firms.

The floodplain management team is effectively handled at the County level

They are not qualified to do so and with the very little resources they have, it would not likely go well.

We don't need the County creating more positions to find work for them. The County is always looking to take over control from the local government. Working toward eliminating the multiple local governments????

Unknown, would be a decision for governing board of the community

We should be able to keep permitting and other issues in house at the local level to protect our citizens.

No because we have a minimal amount of construction of homes located in the flood way and not the plain.

We actually do this now they do our zoning and our Engineer issues building permits

Why NOT Interested in Aggregating to County-Level

Too much turnover at the county level. I have spent the past 30 years in flood plain management & the year training I receive allows us greater control over the flood plain and what permits are issued.

The floodplain area in the municipality is small and floodplain issues/questions are very rare. When there is an issue and I have questions I call Bill Bradfield for help. Training is good, but because the issues are few and far between, I have to look everything up for the new situation.

We handle our Municipality Community

We have no problem managing it on our own. Also, there would be a burden to property owners to have to apply to the county when they can apply locally and have the permit in a shorter period of time.

Hasn't come up as an issue for tiny municipality until you asked in this survey.

It would depend on what that means and looks like.

No need

No staff

Not enough building taking place in the flood plan area.

Our county is not very efficient.

Don't know if there is any interest. Never heard this topic be addressed or discussed.

Best managed at the local level

I'm skeptical that the County could take on the responsibility, given their own limited staffing and the amount of and types of SFHAs throughout the county. We have A, AO, AE, and Zone X designations and the types of flooding that occurs within those often requires a more granular knowledge than what County-level officials may possess.

Not at this time, unsure of the benefit to the municipality.

Not sure what it is.

This municipality employs the most staff of any municipality in the county, and most likely would bear the costs of county-wide floodplain management responsibilities. The municipal staff does not have the time to dedicate to this responsibility, and the anticipated cost-sharing revenue would not be sufficient to hire additional staff.

County does not have interest in ordinance enforcement or administration.

We do not have many properties to consider outsourcing

Why NOT Interested in Aggregating to County-Level

Because we are very happy with the third party that is responsible for our floodplain administration.

At the local level, we know the properties and residents which can be communicated and resolve issues for residents in an efficient manner

Not sure what the above even means.

Communication with our county leadership is lacking.

Not a significant flood plain region. No new structures or many existing structures within flood plain.

We do not have a large floodplain area.

The county does not help with the mandated stormwater requirements which has put municipalities in lawsuits with property owners they will not do anything to assist in floodplain management when there are certain permitting requirements are the county level

We have no team, probably due to the fact that we haven't had any flooding,

Do not have flooding problems.

Hard to sell, county gov is oftentimes not in touch with local needs. Lack of cooperation

Best Handled on a local level

Most applications affected by the floodplain are for fencing, decking, etc., where involving another review body into the process would make things more difficult and could also result in projects falling through the cracks. I've found that for us the person that processes the zoning permits is the best person to verify floodplain compliance because they see all applications that come through the door. Previously the floodplain administrator was someone outside the building, and since the zoning/permitting officer was not tasked with floodplain administration it ended up becoming 'out of sight, out of mind' and a lot of projects fell through the cracks that we had to go back later and correct.

The county does not cover this area well.

I do not trust the county staff to have the best interest of our community in mind when plans are reviewed.

Are areas are small

The idea has not come up.

Few if any structures in the floodplain.

We have limited staff

Why NOT Interested in Aggregating to County-Level

We do not have a management team.

Never discussed

Not many structures or issues within the flood plain.

The County makes decisions based on what is in best for the County, not what may be in the best interest of the municipality.

Most communities look to limit the County influence on their municipality. They don't think or understand what they are doing really isn't working that well. They don't know County administration is an option?

The County may not be as familiar with the historical flooding events and flood-prone areas of the municipality.

Because we have minimal impact of floods in our municipality

It is not needed

Unsure

Municipal staff lives and works in municipality and is better able to identify violations etc. than county employees.

We haven't had need since the dams were removed

We do not do much with floodplain areas

N/A

It is not an issue for us. I have tried to find out if there have been any flood insurance claims in our municipality, never got an answer from FEMA.

We prefer local control

Managing just fine with local staff - no need to add yet another layer of unresponsive bureaucracy. Dealing with PEMA is headache enough

We do not need yet another non-responsive agency and another dose of one-size-fits-all attitude toward regulation. Each case must be evaluated individually.

Most all other regulations are administered by the municipality

Local control is preferred

I checked NO, but certain situations or projects would require County Soil Conservation or PA DEP involvement.

This has never been discussed.

Why NOT Interested in Aggregating to County-Level

We already mirror the county

County is too busy to be burdened to have something else to do.

Not interested.

No interest. As our County does a great job assisting the location Coordinators

Local level government is a value to our residents

Our area is frequently neglected from our county

Local only

Maybe, but with the limited number of properties affected by floodplains, it is not a consideration.

Municipal Staff patrol streams on a daily basis and issue permits that control property use. County staff would only monitor occasionally, if at all. Most county staff are a bunch of suck-ups who "play politics" when making a decision.

Keep it local

We have the knowledge and means to complete these tasks.

Each municipality needs to be looked at on its own and not a comparison to all other towns/cities. The county does not have the man power or time to handle this.