

# Flood Risk in the Mid-Atlantic – Goddard Forum 2025

September 10, 2025

**Venue:** Penn State Harrisburg, Madlyn L. Hanes Library, Morrison Gallery Space

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/VcDoWzXQefQgZv2s5> [D in the map below]



**Parking:** [https://maps.app.goo.gl/4duSzByLFoBJTB1E9?q\\_st=a](https://maps.app.goo.gl/4duSzByLFoBJTB1E9?q_st=a)

## September 10 Flood Risk in the Mid-Atlantic - Goddard Forum

- 8:30 AM Registration, coffee
- 9:00 Welcome, introductions, and overview - Christopher Scott, Goddard Chair, Penn State University Park
- Hybrid participation (9:00 am and 4:45 pm sessions) - <https://psu.zoom.us/j/97098434987>*
- 9:30 “Hurricane and tropical storm impact - Preparation, operations, and recovery efforts” - Thomas Hughes, PA Emergency Management Agency
- 10:00 “Learning from other recent experience: Challenges of the first mile and last mile of flood warning systems,” including reflections from Kerr Co. Texas - David Curtis, West Consultants
- 10:30 Break, networking

- 11:00 “Flood prediction and response: Federal, state, and regional roles” - Panel moderated by Lara Fowler, Penn State / Dickinson Law
- 11:05 “Overview of Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center” - Alaina MacFarlane, National Weather Service
- 11:20 “National Weather Service Flood Operations” - Alaina MacFarlane & Craig Evanego, National Weather Service
- 11:30 “Susquehanna River Basin Commission Flood Management” - Benjamin Pratt, SRBC
- 11:35 Panel discussion
- 11:45 Audience questions/discussions
- 12:00 Potential next steps - Lara Fowler
- 12:10 “Playing the hand we're dealt: Challenges of flood mitigation in an older, densely-developed urban area” - Shirley Clark, Penn State Harrisburg
- 12:30 Lunch and interaction time
- Patrick Dudas, College of Information Science & Technology, Penn State University Park
- 1:00 “Seeing is believing: Visualizing flood risk” - Session moderated by Maurie Kelly, with Peter Stempel and Rob Nicholas, Penn State University Park
- 2:00 “PREPARE PA” - Christine Kirchhoff, Penn State University Park
- 2:30 “Intersections of Flood Events and the Built Environment: Pennsylvania Perspective” - Teri Provost, Department of Community and Economic Development, introduced by Lisa lulo, Penn State
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 “Building flood resilience in the Susquehanna River Basin” - Alfonso Mejía, Kaleigh Yost, Penn State University Park
- 3:45 “Scenario planning for future flood risk” - Breakout groups moderated by Christopher Scott
- 4:45 Report-back, synthesis and next steps
- Hybrid participation (9:00 am and 4:45 pm sessions) - <https://psu.zoom.us/j/97098434987>*
- 5:00 Adjourn

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 Associate Director, Institute of Energy & the Environment, [iee.psu.edu](http://iee.psu.edu)

## Speaker/ committee bios

Christopher Scott is Maurice K. Goddard Chair and Professor of Ecosystem Science and Management at Penn State. He is also Associate Director of the Institute for Energy and the Environment and Director of the Americas Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus Alliance. His work focuses on water security, the WEF nexus, and transboundary waters. He was Director of the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy and Professor of Geography at the University of Arizona (2006-21), worked for the National Weather Service (2000-01), and as a FEMA contractor (1985-87). He earned his PhD and MS at Cornell University, PE in New York state, BS and BA at Swarthmore College, and attended K-12 at Woodstock School, India. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Fellow of the International Water Resources Association.

David C. Curtis, PhD, PH, F.EWRI - Dr. Curtis has more than 5 decades of experience designing, implementing, operating, and maintaining flood warning systems across the US and around the globe. Most recently, he contributed to the “Alternative Flood Early Warning System Guide” for the Texas Water Development Board and provided the rain gage network design for a new all hazards warning system for Peru. Dr. Curtis holds engineering degrees from Penn State, Univ. of Maryland, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. An ardent Penn Stater, his family connections to Penn State span 3 centuries.

Alaina MacFarlane is a Senior Hydrologist at the Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center in State College, PA. She holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in Meteorology from Penn State and focuses on river forecasting, developing forecasting techniques, and working on ensemble modeling systems.

Teri Provost is the Community Development Block Grant Program Manager with the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Prior to joining DCED, she served as Chief of the SEDA-Council of Governments Community Services Division, where she spent 17 years in various leadership roles, including Interim Director of the Community Development Program and Director of Housing Rehabilitation and Flood Resiliency. She has extensive experience with programs administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. A Certified Floodplain Manager, Ms. Provost has overseen numerous state- and federally funded projects, including property buyouts and residential elevation initiatives in flood-prone communities. She served as a District 2 Director (2022–24) for the Association of State Floodplain Managers and also served as both past chair and vice chair of the PA Association of State Floodplain Managers board. She earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology from Clarion University in 2002.

Maurie Kelly is the Director of Informatics at Penn State's Institute for Energy and the Environment where she manages multiple data projects and programs. She is the director of Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA) and her team also manages the PA Flood Risk Assessment Tool, the PA Mine Map Atlas, PennPilot, and other geospatial data projects. Her research includes big data, and crisis/resilience with a particular interest in flood disaster community response. In recent years, her interests focused on environmental topics and crisis leadership, in particular leadership at times of extreme natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

Patrick Dudas is an Associate Teaching Professor at the Penn State College of Information Sciences and Technology. He previously served as the associate director of the Center for Immersive Experiences at Penn State. Dudas holds a doctoral degree in information science from the University of Pittsburgh. He is passionate about creating data visualizations and storytelling methods to help researchers understand their underlying data and make their results more accessible and comprehensible. In collaboration with Cambria County, Dr. Dudas developed the 3D PA Flood Risk experience for the PA Flood Risk Assessment Tool.

Nathan Weyandt is the Project Coordinator at Penn State for the SustainFood network, an NSF funded research grant focused on network-to-network building in the Water-Energy-Food Nexus system across the US and Africa. Nathan got his Wildlife and Fisheries degree at Penn State, with focuses on avian and fisheries research.