

**Ed Thomas, Esq.**  
**Attorney at Law**  
**Edward A. Thomas Esq., LLC**

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**Bio:**

Ed Thomas is a Floodplain Manager, and Disaster Response and Recovery Specialist, and a practicing Attorney. His primary concern is the prevention of misery to disaster victims, the public purse, and to the environment. Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation through advocacy and development of locally orientated policies and procedures with a strong economic, moral and legal foundation is his chosen method of accomplishing this goal.

Attorney Thomas is the President of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association; and an elected member of both the Fellows of the American Bar Association Foundation; and the Council of the State and Local Government Section of the American Bar Association. He is also the Chair of the Hazards Sub-Committee of the Land Use Planning and Zoning Committee, of the ABA. In addition, Ed serves on the Advisory Committee of the Natural Hazards Center of the University of Colorado; and is an active member of the American Planning Association, the American Society of Adaptation Professionals, the Association of State Wetland Managers and the American Geophysical Union.

During his 35 year career with HUD and FEMA, Ed worked on about two hundred disasters and emergencies, serving as the President's on scene representative, the Federal Coordinating Officer, dozens of times.

Ed is a frequent lecturer on Emergency Management issues, especially the Constitutional and Legal Aspects of Floodplain Regulations. He has authored dozens of publications and articles on various Disaster related issues.

Ed has received numerous national and international awards including the nation's highest award for Floodplain Management: The Goddard-White Award from the Association of State Floodplain Managers. In addition, he received the Gulf of Maine Visionary Award from the International Gulf of Maine Council, for his efforts in helping develop the NOAA StormSmart Coasts Program.

Attorney Thomas is a graduate of Fordham College and a *magna cum laude* graduate of the New England School of Law, in Boston. He manages a private practice of Law, Edward A. Thomas Esq., LLC and lives with his wife in the floodplain of beautiful Marina Bay in Quincy, Massachusetts.

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**James (Jim) Murphy, PE CFM**  
**Project Director**  
**URS Corporation**

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**Bio:** Areas of Expertise

DHS/FEMA/USACE Engineering Program Management  
Engineering, Risk/Mitigation Management and Policy Review  
Years of Experience

36 years of Civil Engineering and Program/Project Management

Education

BS/Civil Engineering – University of Colorado

MBA/Management Science – George Mason University

Registration/Certification

Professional Engineer/VA

Certified Floodplain Manager

Overview

Mr. Murphy has 36 years of corporate and project management experience, including 32 years as a consultant to the USACE, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/FIA. This effort includes providing dam/levee policy recommendations related to risk and mitigation since 1984.

National Policy Expert for Infrastructure, Dams/Levees for DHS, USACE, FEMA

Mr. Murphy is currently serving as Vice-Chairman for the DHS/OIP CIPAC subcommittee on dams and levees including the development of recommendations for the Tier 1 and 2 eligibility criteria for critical infrastructure. He is working with the USACE as a reviewer for the recommendations of the National Committee on Levee Safety as part of the National Levee Safety Act. He is also on the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) committee developing the "Infrastructure Report Card" which provides and update on the status of the Nation's infrastructure (including dam/levees) to Congress and the American people. For the first time all categories of infrastructure will include recommendations/status of resiliency. He has just been appointed as a member of the Public Policy Committee on

America's Infrastructure. FEMA's Flood and Hazard Mapping/Identification Programs – Including Levee Policy Guidance and Dam Risk Procedures.

Mr. Murphy assisted in developing recommendations on how to address levee issues including the creation of the new levee inventory and database that is now used by both the USACE and FEMA. Other recommendations included adopting the Corps' risk based methodology for H&H analysis and conducting more rigorous assessments and review of current levee conditions and operations and maintenance procedures. He was and member of the FEMA interagency policy review committee to address "The National Levee Challenge". Mr. Murphy also assisted in the development of the Code of Federal Regulations 65.10, defining the engineering and other requirements for levee certification. Mr. Murphy is currently overseeing the development of two FEMA task orders to develop standardized procedures on how to conduct a dam failure consequence assessment, and how to model and map dam failure inundation areas.

#### Hazard Guidelines and Building Code Assessments

As a member of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) Advisory Committee under contract to FEMA for the integration of building codes, created innovative, implementable solutions to the challenges of building in a multi-hazard environment. This included investigating conflicts between different building codes and FEMA mitigation recommendations.

#### Risk Reduction to Infrastructure Systems

Mr. Murphy served as a member of the advisory committee to the American Lifelines Alliance (ALA) initially under ASCE and then the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS). Their mission is to establish a public-private partnership between FEMA and industry, with the goal of reducing risks to lifelines (utility, transportation, communication systems) from natural and man-made hazards. Developed guidelines and specifications for industry to follow to mitigate losses and build in redundancy and resiliency. He was Project Manager for the ALA 'Hazard Matrix' which compiled the Nation's guidance for reducing damage to infrastructure from both natural and manmade hazards, including terrorism.

#### HAZUS Loss Estimation Project for Floods

Mr. Murphy managed the hydrology and hydraulic modeling of the engineering and GIS segments of the HAZUS project as a subcontractor to NIBS in support of FEMA. He oversaw the development of software to assist in providing hazard identification and vulnerability analyses, including investigations into how to account for levee locations and possible failure. HAZUS is a national multi-hazard model using GIS to characterize hazards and aid in mitigation by allowing users to generate various hazard scenarios and predicting their outcomes.

#### FEMA Mitigation, Response and Recovery Contracts

Served as Project Director for contracts with both the Public Assistance and Individual Assistance Groups within FEMA. Dispatched teams of engineers and inspectors within 48 hours to analyze damages, determine economic and life-cycle costs, conduct environmental assessments, and quality control plans, for public infrastructure, including failed levees. Oversaw the preparation of state and local mitigation plans to minimize losses from natural and manmade hazards.

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#### **Katie Skakel, CFM Planning Consultant**

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**Bio:** Katie Harkins Skakel (CFM) is a planning consultant with 25 years experience in land use planning, floodplain management, mitigation, climate adaptation and resiliency planning. Katie has worked extensively across the US, including the Adirondacks and Appalachian Regions, New England states, the Great Midwest Floods of 1993, and the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Special projects in floodplain management and mitigation include technical leadership in Hurricane Sandy Mitigation efforts. Working with communities in New York, Katie provided technical guidance on substantial damage properties, the Community Rating System, remapping, Haz US and coastal construction and sustainable design. Katie's extensive work as a Regional Planner in Massachusetts and as a FEMA Specialist provided communities with a unique experienced task-orientated planner that could work with communities devastated by floods and other natural disasters.

Katie serves as a Board Member on the Natural Hazards Mitigation Association (NHMA). She is passionate about sharing technical training on consensus building to stop the disaster cycle. Through her training with Transition Town Planning, the Oregon Natural Step, and Transformational Resilience (TR), Katie hopes to increase the collective conversation about how to create a resilient community, which integrates green design practices, and lessons learned from Ecological Adaptation Principles and planning for a whole community approach. This past year, Katie worked as a Senior Hazard Mitigation Planner for Tetra Tech providing technical analysis on New York Rising Projects, King County, Wa, City and County of Los Angeles Floodplain Plan, and Cook County, Ill (the largest Multi- Hazard Mitigation Plan undertaken nationally (of 130 communities)).

Katie's ability to work compassionately and provide clear technical information to community leaders has proved to be a great asset in rebuilding and/or relocated communities in Alaska. Katie received her Bachelor of Science from St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY which included semesters in Kenya, East Africa and Appalachia. Katie has graduate course work in environmental law and land use planning from Tufts University and University of Massachusetts as well as non-degree graduate course work – site planning and review from Portland State University. Katie managed a program for the Ford Foundation through the Overseas Development Network (ODN) where she gained insights into several organizational NGO's working in Appalachia about what it means to empower communities. Katie continues to work on regional planning issues and non-profits such as the Gorge Grown Food Network to bring a sustainable food system to the area she calls home; the Columbia River Gorge.

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**Aaron Pfannenstiel, AICP, LEED AP**

**Project Manager**

**PMC**

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**Bio:**

Aaron Pfannenstiel is an Urban Planner and Geologist at Pacific Municipal Consultants based out of California. Currently, Mr. Pfannenstiel is working on comprehensive planning, hazard mitigation planning, climate adaptation, and emergency management projects throughout California. His interests predominantly focus on the role of local government leadership and how comprehensive planning plans within a community can facilitate the identification, understanding, and mitigation of natural and man-made hazards.

**Commitments:**

I am interested in assisting with leadership development and growth of the organization. Given our strategic plan (assuming it is still in the same format that we originally wrote), I would like to help in expanding the role of NHMA in the Hazards community and making stronger connections to the planning world.

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**Thomas S. Hughes**

**State Hazard Mitigation Officer**

**Chief, Hazard Mitigation Division**

**PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)**

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thughes@pa.gov

**Bio:** Has been with PEMA 21 years in several key agency positions. As PA SHMO, currently responsible for over 180 Disaster and Non-Disaster Hazard Mitigation projects (Acquisition/Demolition, Elevation, Ice-Boom, Notification & Early Warning, Floodproofing, HM Planning (67Counties, 14DRU, State HMP) in the area of \$100 million in HM dollars. Currently working DR-1898 (Snow Disaster), DR-4003 (NE PA Flooding), DR-4025 (Hurricane Irene), DR-4030 (Tropical Storm Lee), DR-4099 (Superstorm Sandy) and DR-4149 (11 County Continuous Flood Events); 30 Non-Disaster HM Grants (FMA, PDM, LPDM, RFC and SRL). Pennsylvania Silver Jacket Co-Chair (2013 Team of the Year). Has completed the FEMA Advanced Floodplain Management Concept Courses (3).

**PEMA State Hazard Mitigation Officer Position:**

- Serves as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO), Function as principal staff assistant to the Bureau Director and PEMA Director in hazard mitigation matters; Supervises Hazard Mitigation personnel (HM Project Officers) assigned to the Bureau; oversight on all plans and projects, Serves as Chairman of the State All-Hazard Mitigation Planning Team and member of Pennsylvania's Land-Use Committee and Co-Chair of the chartered Pennsylvania Silver Jackets Program (Replace the State Flood Task Force) which involves federal, state, local and professional association stakeholders. (Currently have a 14 Full-Time, Limited-Term, Annuitants & Clerical HM Staff assigned)

**Description of Duties/Responsibilities:**

- Assists state, county and municipal governments in natural hazard risk identification and the identification and implementation of cost effective measures that will reduce future losses resulting from natural disasters.
- Recommends, develops and implements procedures for efficient, effective administration of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance (HMA) Programs: Disaster Grants – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Non-Disaster Grants- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA).
- Assists in the administration of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program by:
  - Reviewing, recommending and submitting county and municipal government requests for hazard mitigation grant monies to FEMA; Providing technical advice and assistance to community leaders and other applicants concerning

documentation requirements and disaster funding procedures; Acting as the applicant's advocate in all matters related to project approval and administration;

- Assisting in the preparation of internal directives associated with the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program;
- Develops and provides training to PEMA staff and augmenters, Joint Field Office (JFO) staff, Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) staff, and other interested parties on hazard mitigation.

**Emergency Assignment:**

- Assists in the establishment of the Joint Field Office located in the designated disaster area.
- Serves as the hazard mitigation expert on the JFO management team.
- Serves as team leader of the Hazard Mitigation Field Team in preliminary damage assessment (PDA) activities.
- Ensures notification of potential hazard mitigation applicants and conduct Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Applicants' Briefing.

**Education:**

BA, Lycoming College, Business Administration, 1985, Williamsport, PA

AA Financial Management Specialist, Community College of the Air Force, 1987, Maxwell Air Force Base

**Professional Credentials:** 3x Certified Emergency Manager, NCCEM & International Assoc. of Emergency Managers 1995-2010

Employed by PEMA since 1993. Previous positions: State Emergency Operations Duty Officer, State Radiological Officer, State Training Officer. State EOC – Operations Section Chief; Infrastructure, Human Services, Recovery Branch Division Chief; US Air Force and USAF Reserves Retired (CMSgt): Emergency Management/Mission Support Group duties 1985-2013; deployed for Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

**Commitments:**

I am interested in assisting NHMA in providing FEMA recommendation and changes to current Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) policies that are inconsistent and that prevent good mitigation and resilience projects from happening in communities that lack project execution capacity but that really need technical support, planning and grant assistance and project execution guidance. Would like to work with NHMA to find out what the true impact of recent NFIP legislation will have on community, well beyond the National Academy of Science HFIAA Study.

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**James (Jim) Mullen**

**Former Director, Washington State Emergency Management Division**

**Previously Director Seattle Divisions of Emergency Management**

**(Semi retired) Sole Proprietor EM Northwest Consulting, LLC**

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**Bio:**

Jim Mullen BIO November 2014

Jim Mullen is a private consultant specializing in emergency management. He served as Director of the Washington State Emergency Management Division for 8 ½ years, retiring from the State of Washington in March 2013. He is currently sole proprietor of "EM Northwest Consulting" based in Seattle.

Prior to serving as Washington State Director, Mr. Mullen was Director of Emergency Management for the City of Seattle, WA for 12 years. His tenure there was marked by numerous awards to his staff for innovative program development. Seattle was a pilot Project Impact city in 1998, winning widespread praise for its effective pre disaster implementation of mitigation in schools and residences. In 2003 he was honored by the International Association of Emergency Managers "For outstanding contributions to the field of emergency management and for establishing himself as an outstanding representative of our discipline."

While at the state of Washington he ushered in the development of a 2-way day to day interaction between private industry and the state emergency management division. He established a logistics planning capability, and created an exercise and training section that coordinated a thematic E&T effort statewide. Throughout his tenure, he engaged in developing recovery and long term post disaster restoration capabilities, culminating in 2012 with the Evergreen Quake Exercise Series, in which a substantial amount of time and planning was divided among logistics planning, response, and introducing a "Resilient Washington" concept in the restoration/recovery phase of the Series. That concept remains the catalyst for innovative advance planning for post disaster restoration and redevelopment following a catastrophic event. That exercise series also marked the first time that the cross border Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Agreement (PNEMA) was operationally tested with staff deployment across borders and direct interaction in exercise play between the Governors of Alaska and Washington State as a well as the Premier and Solicitor General of British Columbia.

At his direction the nationally recognized Map Your Neighborhood program was designed and implemented in Washington State and has since been adopted in many other states, and has been introduced in several other nations as well.

He served as President of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) from January 2011 to October 2012. In the years prior to assuming the presidency of NEMA Mr. Mullen chaired the NEMA Mitigation Committee, where he spearheaded the

organization of the National Mitigation Alliance. Mr. Mullen was a forthright advocate for consideration of interdependencies beyond the disaster and for greater emphasis on maintenance of supply chains: uncommon a few years ago but now a staple of state director discussions. A major accomplishment was the solidification in a divided Congress of the worth of the Emergency Management Performance Grants, and the introduction of a White Paper by NEMA that proposed a comprehensive reform of Homeland Security related grants to assure the flexibility for local and state emergency managers while guaranteeing the accountability Congress and federal Administrations rightfully expect. Although initially controversial, the essence of that Homeland Security Grant Reform proposal can be easily found within the President's proposed 2015 Budget.

**Commitments:**

I am interested in assisting with projects that draw mitigation into the dialogue at the local level, and that bridge the gap in addressing controversial issues such as climate change in public and private sector decision making. I also believe that mitigation may be best promoted by contemplating the challenges a post disaster recovery might bring. What does not break does not have to be fixed.

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**Kirsten Orwig**  
**Atmospheric Perils Specialist**  
**Swiss Re**

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**Bio:**

Kirsten Orwig joined Swiss Re in 2013 as an Atmospheric Perils Specialist to lead atmospheric hazards risk assessment modeling and outreach. In her short tenure there, she has developed a new approach to tornado risk assessment modeling, served on the American Geophysical Union Natural Hazards Focus Group Executive Board and as Co-Chair of the Natural Hazards Focus Group Planning Committee, has had numerous speaking engagements on topics ranging from climate change and severe weather to catastrophe insurance, co-authored a publication on US Tornadoes: An Examination of the Past to Prepare for the Future, and more. Before joining Swiss Re, she worked as a Systems Integration Analyst at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, CO, leading modeling and forecasting research and public/private partnerships to more efficiently integrate wind and solar power onto the nation's electrical grid. Prior to NREL, she served as Senior Scientist at CPP Inc., a wind engineering consulting firm in Fort Collins, CO, where she largely focused on modeling wind in complex terrain and tornado risk assessment. She earned a B.S. double-majoring in Chemistry and Physical Science, earned an M.S. in Atmospheric Science, and was awarded an NSF IGERT Fellowship to complete a PhD in Wind Science and Engineering, a multi-disciplinary program incorporating Statistics, Atmospheric Science, Economics, and Structural Engineering. Her research focused on the measurement and characterization of strong winds with implications for building design practices.

**Commitments:**

I am interested in participating in the Advisory Committee and/or the Adaptation Committee.

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**Molly Mowery**  
**Owner**  
**Wildfire Planning International, LLC**

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molly@wildfireplanning.com

**Bio:** Molly Mowery is President and Owner of Wildfire Planning International, a Colorado-based company founded in 2013 and dedicated to creating fire adapted communities through coalition-building, wildfire mitigation best practices, and the implementation of land use tools and sustainable policies. Prior to founding Wildfire Planning International, Molly developed and managed the Fire Adapted Communities program for the National Fire Protection Association, in coordination with the USDA Forest Service. Molly's previous experience includes community planning and hazard mitigation positions throughout the United States and United Kingdom. Molly is a past board member for the Canadian non-profit association, Partners in Protection, and holds active memberships with the American Planning Association, the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association, and the International Association of Wildland Fire. She has presented and published internationally on wildfire mitigation and planning topics. Molly holds a Bachelor of Arts from Naropa University and a Master in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Commitments:**

I am interested in assisting with broadening NHMA membership engagement opportunities and sustaining member interest in the annual NHMA Symposium. I believe NHMA has the potential to become the recognized international lead organization in the field of hazard mitigation and resilience, and an expanded network of active members will strengthen its pathway toward

success.

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**Name:** John Duffy

**PhD Candidate**

**University of Alaska, Fairbanks**

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**Bio:** Mr. Duffy has over 25 years experience at the local government level serving as Planning Director and Borough Manager. During John's time in local government he prepared numerous community and related functional plans as well as special purpose plans such as transportation, lake management and economic development plans. He also has considerable experience in developing zoning and subdivision codes. His work also involved obtaining the funding of capital projects in excess of \$650 million, to include major transportation improvement and school construction projects.

In addition, Mr. Duffy served on EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee where he chaired the Indicators and Military workgroups. These workgroups provided advice to EPA on environmental metrics, climate change, and issue related to formally used defense sites. John also served on EPA's Committee responsible for developing advice on the environmental protocols of North American Free Trade Agreement.

John is presently a PhD candidate with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. His doctoral research seeks better understanding of those variables associated with local government pursuit of sustainability, resilience, and climate change adaptation. This knowledge will provide guidance on how to encourage the more than 90,000 local governments in the United States to actively pursue efforts to build adaptive capacity, resilience, and sustainability at the community level.

John is an AICP, has a MUPP from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a specialty in transportation policy. He is also a credentialed manager with the International City/County Manager's Association.

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**Erin Capps**

**Vice President of Operations**

**H2O Partners Inc.**

Email: [ecapps@h2opartnersusa.com](mailto:ecapps@h2opartnersusa.com)

**Bio:** Erin Capps is a licensed attorney with expertise in Stafford Act compliance and interpreting the 44 Code of Federal Regulations. As Vice President of Operations at H2O Partners Inc., Erin oversees the development of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) plans and grants as well as Public Assistance (PA) recovery efforts and helps develop and manage Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). She has worked closely with cities, counties, regional groups, non-profits, states, and federal agencies with planning and recovery efforts to help build resilient communities. Her legal background and broad experience has helped shape her understanding of compliance statutes and how they can be leveraged to maximize funding for various entities. As a former Co-Chair of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee for the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA), Ms. Capps has created conference panels on the challenges of making mitigation matter and co-authored a white paper on how to improve mitigation planning. Ms. Capps holds a Juris Doctor from Baylor University School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree in Advertising with a specialization in business from the University of Texas at Austin.