

# Southern Tier Central

REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD



## Flood Assistance Program

Janet Thigpen, CFM

Flood Mitigation Specialist

# Flood History

- 1784 – Ice Flood
- 1786 – The Pumpkin Flood
- 1794
- 1816
- 1817
- 1833 – The Great Inundation
- 1840
- 1846
- January 1857
- June 1857
- July 1857
- November 1857 – Big Flood
- March 1859
- 1860 – another Pumpkin Flood
- 1861 – The Tremendous Flood
- 1864
- 1865
- 1867
- 1870
- 1872
- 1886
- June - Big Flood of 1889
- November 1889
- 1894
- 1900
- 1901
- February 1902
- July 1902
- 1903
- June 1916
- September 1916
- 1918
- 1920
- 1935 – Finger Lakes Flood
- 1939
- 1946
- 1956
- 1964
- 1972 – Hurricane Agnes
- 1975 – Hurricane Eloise
- January 1976
- February 1976
- June 1976 – Fathers’ Day Flood
- February 1977
- September 1977
- March 1978
- August 1978
- January 1979
- March 1979
- February 10, 1981
- February 19-24, 1981
- 1982
- 1983
- February 1984
- June 1984
- August 1984
- 1992
- March 1993
- April 1993
- February 1994
- August 1994 – Hurricane Beryl
- November 1994
- January 1996
- June 1996
- November 1996
- December 1996
- 1997
- January 1998
- June 1998
- July 1998
- 1999
- 2000
- 2002
- July 2003
- August 2003
- May 2004
- August 2004 – Tropical Storm Gaston
- September 2004 – Tropical Storm Francis
- September 2004 – Tropical Storm Ivan
- April 2005
- November 2005
- 2006
- July 2008
- September 2008
- March 2011
- May 2011
- September 2011 – Tropical Storm Lee

# How the Program Started

- January 19, 1996 – flood
- EDA Adjustment Strategy Grant
- November 8, 1996 – another flood
- December 9, 1996 – Flood Recovery Specialist hired
- 14-month position

# EDA Adjustment Strategy Grant

- Provide technical assistance with flood recovery and long range mitigation
- Flood Recovery/Mitigation Economic Adjustment Strategy

# Work Program for EDA Grant

- National Flood Insurance Program
- Stormwater management and drainage system maintenance
- Grant writing
- Technical assistance
- Flood Recovery / Mitigation Economic Adjustment Strategy

# Keeping the Program Going

## GRANTS:

- Flood and all-hazard mitigation plans
- EDA Economic Adjustment Special Need grant
- Watershed planning
- Stream Processes Guide
- Floodproofing training
- Stormwater management
- Water quality
- Local Waterfront Revitalization

# Keeping the Program Going

## LOCAL FUNDING:

- Local match for grants
- Flood Warning System
- FEMA Risk MAP project

# Overview

- Focus on mitigating future losses
- Promote “cultural change” in how people interact with streams and floodplains
- Challenge to find grant funding for education, training, and technical assistance

*Floods are “acts of God,” but flood losses are largely acts of man.*

- Gilbert F. White



# Janet Thigpen, CFM

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board

[jthigen@co.chemung.ny.us](mailto:jthigen@co.chemung.ny.us)

(607) 737-5271

[www.stcplanning.org](http://www.stcplanning.org)