

Homework 2 – Policy Brief – Flood Inundation Modelling and Planning Center

CPLN 675, Spring, 2022

Instructors: Michael Fichman, MCP

Due Date: 2/23/2022

Write a **one-page** proposal (12 pt font) for the creation of a
“(National **or** Regional **or** Local) Flood Inundation Modeling & Planning Center”
(FIMPC).

The intended audience is an elected official or legislative body at the level of governance of your choice. *The challenge here is to communicate a complex technical matter and its policy ramifications to a busy decision-maker.* Assume this person does not know (or want to know) technical details.

This is an exercise in creative thought about policy and data-driven planning and management. Feel free to bring to bear anything else you have learned outside this class and incorporate light domain research if you so choose. We have not been super policy-heavy in this class, so “write what you know.” One place to start with that is at the [USGS Flood Inundation mapping page](#). You don't have to hit on all the questions below, but please do consider the final question in bold.

- What is the goal of such a center?
- What kind of people would you need to staff it?
- What level of government would run this center?
- What other government organizations would they coordinate?
- What data would you need to collect; for where; and how timely? How would you collect these data?
- What sort of models would you be running with your data? How do you know they are useful?
- How would you publicize the results?
- How would you turn modeling results into actionable intelligence?
- Who would do what with the information?
- What are the political barriers that stand in the way of the FIMPC having real agency?**

This assignment is worth 15 points.

Extra Credit: For an extra 2 points, create an annotated one-page map of political and hydrological features in your study area that are relevant to the discussion in the memo.

Turn the assignment in as a pdf, titled *YourLastName_YourFirstName_HW2.pdf* by the beginning of class on the due date at the following link:

<https://upenn.app.box.com/f/321f32378306432fab52e3fb48ce0ea0>