

MONMOUTH COUNTY CRS USERS GROUP

MEETING NOTES

Thursday, April 11, 2019 @ 10am

Thompson Park Visitor Center

805 Newman Springs Road (CR 520), Lincroft, NJ

1) Welcome from Joe Barris, Monmouth County Division of Planning.

- Joe thanked representatives from County municipalities, neighboring counties, State agencies and institutions, and other participants for continuing to support the group
- Introductions: See attached sign in sheet for attendees

2) Partner Updates

ISO

- Garrett Byma, ISO, discussed elevation certificates and ABFEs. He recommended that everyone subscribe to the CRS newsletter for updates and resources.
- **Review of ECs** – All of last years' re-certifications, which were reviewed using the new EC review software. Towns should have been given results. He noted that there is still a backlog due to technical issues. Garrett asked that if your town is coming up on a cycle visit, to please send him your ECs 1-2 months in advance to allow time for corrections if needed. ECs should be at a 90% correctness rate. Garrett explained the EC sampling process. If a town has less than 70 ECs on file they should send them all to Garrett. If a town has more than 70 ECs they should send Garrett a permit list and he will randomly select 70 ECs for review. If there are errors, all ECs will have to be corrected, not just the sample. Minor corrections in section A and B of the EC Correction Form may be made without a surveyor. For re-certifications, all ECs from the previous year should be submitted. More information and common errors can be found in the newsletter.
- **ABFEs**– CRS credits for ABFEs will sunset on May 1, 2023. This years' cycle will be the last to receive those credits. Some communities could lose 1-2 classes as a result; communities should start planning now to make up those points.

NJDEP

- Becky Jones, NJDEP, reminded the group to Save-the-Date for the 2019 NJAFM conference in Atlantic City on October 15-17. She also complimented the tenacity of the Monmouth County CRS user group and asked for feedback on what can be done at the state level to help CRS communities. She encouraged members to email her with any ideas or requests. Rebecca.jones@dep.nj.gov.
- NJDEP is working on holding an upcoming CFM training/exam at the Monmouth County Fire Academy. Upcoming dates will be posted on the NJAFM website (www.njafm.org).
- Becky handed out Elevation Certificate guidance forms (see CRS program webpage).

Monmouth County Planning

- Joe Barris, Monmouth County Planning, told the group that NJAFM is preparing to offer specialized training for CRS communities this summer. They are asking CRS User Groups for ideas for specialized training during the October conference.
- Joe discussed the Florida AFM conference that he attended in March. FEMA will begin the process of moving from a set rate to actuarial risk by 2021. Homes will not have to be in a flood hazard area to be risk-assessed. Refer to the Risk Rating 2.0 Overview handout (see CRS program webpage).

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- The County is currently working on a potential shared service agreement to obtain services from Forerunner.

Risk Reduction Plus Group

- Camille Graham, Risk Reduction Plus Group, said the new FEMA program of assigning risk may include an increase in the ICC money for elevations, low-interest long-term loans, FRE program helps with home assessments.

Ocean County CRS

- Marissa Cortese, Ocean County Planning, informed the group that the New Jersey Coastal Coalition has been helping communities in Ocean County. Ocean County (Freeholders) recently adopted a resolution to join the Coastal Coalition.

Morris County CRS

- Morris County Planning announced that the next Morris County CRS user group meeting will be held on May 14, 2019 at 9am, Lincoln Park Municipal Building, Community Room.

3) Monmouth County Updates

Monmouth County OEM

- Mike McGlennon, Monmouth County OEM, informed the group that the All Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan kickoff meeting was held on February 20, 2019. In attendance were Monmouth County OEM, Planning, and consultants from Michael Baker. He noted that the federal government is looking to increase pre-disaster mitigation funding from 50 to 300 million dollars. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 23rd.

Monmouth University

- Dr. Tom Harrington, Monmouth University, informed the group that Monmouth University has taken over the County's tidal gauge data and is also monitoring coastal lakes. Monmouth University is also working with Michael Baker on mitigation strategies to be considered in the Raritan/Sandy Hook Bay Coastal Resilience Planning Study.

Monmouth County Planning

- Linda Brennen, Supervising Planner, gave an overview of the major resilience studies that are taking place in CRS communities including the Raritan/Sandy Hook Bay Coastal Resilience Planning Study, the US ACE NJ Back Bay Study, and the NY & NJ Harbor & Tributaries Focus Area Feasibility Study (HATS).(see CRS program webpage).

4) Guest Speaker

- **Tom Quirk, New Jersey Coastal Coalition:** The NJCC Mission is to build more resilient communities at the Jersey Shore by developing policies and practices that will anticipate future concerns and to create solutions to be shared by all participants. Meetings are not open to the public, however local officials from Monmouth County's municipalities are welcome to attend. Contact Tom at acmcoastalcoalition@gmail.com. Flyer is on the CRS program webpage.

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- **Dr. Alexander Mirescu, Pontarolo Engineering, Urban Resilience Business Unit.** Breaking from traditional engineering, Pontarolo Engineering converts risk-driving impervious spaces into resilient assets with its Cupolex structural void space solutions. Dr. Morescu invited the group to come see a Jersey City project in May. (see CRS program webpage).

5) Announcements

- **Joint Monmouth-Ocean CRS Meeting, July 11, 2019, Thompson Park Visitors Center. This meeting will be a workshop with NJDEP to work with CRS communities on the New Jersey Coastal Resiliency Plan. Your input in this important state plan is needed and necessary.**
- Upcoming CRS Webinars www.CRSResources.org/training (CRS Webpage)
 - April 16 Preparing for a Verification Visit
 - April 17 Activity 370: Flood insurance Promotion
 - June 18 Activity 540: Credit for Drainage System Maintenance
 - June 19 Preparing an Annual Recertification (Due October 1)
 - July 16 Developing a Repetitive Loss Area
 - July 17 Activity 610: Flood Warning Response
- Ocean Fun Day sponsored by the NJ Sea Grant Consortium
 - May 18 @ Island Beach State Park
 - May 19 @ Sandy Hook
- NJAFM Conference, Hard Rock, Atlantic City, October 15-17, 2019

6) Open Comments, Questions, Discussion

- Substantial Improvement DCA
- Monmouth County Building Officials Association will have a disaster response team kick-off meeting on May 7th at the Monmouth County Fire Academy
- REM extensions
- Neptune Township, NJDEP approved living shoreline project for Shark River

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 11, 2019, at 10am; MCPS Visitor's Center, Thompson Park, Lincroft.