

Monmouth County CRS Users Group Meeting
January 21, 2016@ 10am
Sea Grant Office

Welcome by Sea Grant Consortium

- Claire Antonucci, Executive Director, Sea Grant.

Introductions

- See sign-in sheet

Monmouth County:

- Joe Barris explained the CRS Activity Points Matrix in the packet. The Matrix displays which County towns got CRS points for their activities and which of those towns got the highest CRS points in that category. If a town wants to gain points in a certain category, they can use the Matrix to contact a town that scored in that category. Garret Byma (ISO Coordinator) added that some of the points have changed slightly with the new CRS Manual.
- Joe Barris discussed FEMA flood zone disclosure statements. There was a discussion about how to give flood zone information to the public. There was an example floodplain information form if towns wanted to use that for public inquiries. Hazlet explained if a public request comes in a written form, they answer in a written form. If the public comes to the borough hall, administration directs them to the FEMA website to lookup their flood zone by address. Atlantic Highlands refers inquiries to the FEMA website. It appears each town does

Steve Kegelman has language that the Borough uses in his response letters. He will provide this to Margaret for dissemination to the group.

- Brittany Ashman gave an update on the County's High Water Mark (HMW) Initiative. 14 towns have passed a HMW Initiative resolution. The County is waiting for a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). The HWM Committee voted on a template for the countywide sign. Slight sign modifications may still happen to the design. Also, there was a request for Irene-damage signs since some towns saw more flooding during Hurricane Irene than Sandy.
- Meghan Leavey gave an update on GIS mapping. Recently, she has helped Avon-by-the-Sea with 5 maps for their CRS application. If anyone needs mapping assistance, e-mail Meghan.

Avon-by-the-Sea:

- Steve Kegelman talked about his positive experience with the CRS course offered at Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, MD which is free for government employees. The course is taught by the people that designed the CRS course, which was helpful. Next course offered is April 18-21, 2016. Towns also get CRS points for attending the conference.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension:

- Chris Obropta, Associate Professor, Extension Specialist in Water Resources, Rutgers Cooperative Extension; gave a presentation on "Impervious Surface Coverage Reduction." Anyone seeking more information about innovative stormwater management and water quality solutions can contact Chris at 848-932-5711.

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Meghan Leavey will place a link to Chris' presentation on the CRS program web page as well as a link to the upcoming Innovative Solutions using Green Infrastructure conference at the on February 26, 2016

American Littoral Society:

- Zach Royle gave a presentation on ecological restoration (living shorelines). Current living shoreline projects in Monmouth County include Rumson and Fair Haven. Garret Byma will look into CRS points for living shoreline projects

Meghan Leavey will place a link to Zach's presentation on the CRS Program web page.

FEMA:

- Garrett Byma explained that there are new FEMA elevation and floodproofing certificates available. Margaret Murnane sent out the new certificate forms to the CRS list serve Friday, January 22, 2016.

Garrett Byma will send the appropriate version of the new certificate to Margaret Murnane Brooks. Margaret will distribute it to the CRS User Group.

- Andrew Martin gave an update on the FIRMs for Region II. The 90-day appeal period is complete. FEMA is still working on New York City's appeal which is delaying the approval process for all of Region II. There are around 5 appeals still open in Monmouth County. The questions was asked, "When the New York City issue gets resolved, if the maps are changed, will that trigger off a new round of the appeal process" As of now, Andrew didn't think it would. FEMA is hoping to adopt the FIRMs by April 2016.
- Crystal Smith nee Tramunti talked about the change in Category 330: Outreach. The category went from 10 topics to 6; towns gain outreach points portraying messages relevant and important to their town, with simple messages and to hit on a variety of topics.

Upcoming Training Opportunities (Webinars):

- February 16, 2016: Intro to CRS
- February 17, 2016: CRS Higher Regulation Standards
- February 26, 2016: Fixing Flooding: One Community at a Time, Innovative Solutions using Green Infrastructure (www.water.rutgers.edu)

Open Comments, Questions:

- Aberdeen asked if there were any state standards for evacuation signs and education on the signs; there are no standards for local roads.

**Next Meeting: April 21, 2016
Location: TBD**

MONMOUTH COUNTY CRS USERS GROUP

Jan. 21, 2016

10:00 AM

Sandy Hook

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Sandy Hook

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