

## **MONMOUTH COUNTY CRS USERS GROUP**

### **01/10/19 Meeting Notes**

Meeting was held at Monmouth University Science Building, West Long Branch at 10:00 a.m.

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

- Joe thanked Tom Herrington, Monmouth University, for hosting the meeting
- 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 Update**

- Garrett Byma, ISO, thanked everyone who completed their re-certifications and told the group that everyone who was due submitted for re-certification. He noted that Christina has recently returned from a medical leave and is currently working on tallying ECs. Four towns due for cycle verification this year include Aberdeen, Belmar, Neptune Township, Union Beach.
- New NFIP/CRS EMI courses have been scheduled for March and June 2019. Garrett suggested signing up soon, because the course fills up quickly. A listing of course offerings can be found at <https://training.fema.gov/emicourses/schedules.aspx>
- There was discussion about trainings on the topic of Watershed Management Plans, however none are scheduled at this time.

##### **FEMA**

- Chanelle LaCross, FEMA, introduced herself to the group and announced that FEMA is working on an engagement plan and will be offering workshops and technical assistance.

##### **NJDEP Update**

- Jim Watt, NJDEP, informed the group that floodplain management training has now been held in every county and more will be held in 2019 as well as a two hour Elevation Certificate review course. If you've already taken the course, you are welcome to attend more than once. NJDEP will pay for first time CFM exam-takers. Upcoming dates are posted on NJAFM website ([www.njafm.org](http://www.njafm.org)).

##### **Elevation Certificate review course**

E-mail Jim Watt at [James.Watt@DEP.nj.gov](mailto:James.Watt@DEP.nj.gov) to register:

Tuesday, January 24, 2019, 10am to noon

Riverfront Park & Marina

2 Main Street, Avon-by-the-Sea

### **JCNERR Update**

- Lisa Auermuller, JCNERR, announced the merger of the two mapping tools on NJADAPT. She said that there have been focus groups and the alpha version is being developed and volunteers will be needed to test it.
- Lisa discussed the New Jersey Coastal Resilience Plan meeting that was held at Monmouth University in the fall. NJDEP announced an accelerated timeline and will be gathering stakeholder feedback in the coming months.
- Lisa discussed the NJ FRAMES meeting where draft summaries and strategies for adaptation were discussed by stakeholders. The next step will be a cost/benefit analysis.
- NOAA is developing a CRS resource strategy and Lisa will be providing them with stakeholder feedback

### **Ocean County CRS Update**

- Mark Villinger, Ocean County Planning, informed the group that the last Ocean County CRS user group meeting was held in December and the next meeting will be held on March 21, 2019

### **Morris County CRS Update**

- Virginia Michelin, Morris County Planning, announced that the next Morris County CRS user group meeting will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the Lincoln Park Municipal Building and the Silver Jackets will be presenting. Meetings are held quarterly.
- The Morris County group is working on a program statistics map similar to Monmouth County
- Morris County CRS user group would be interested in Watershed Management Plan and surge model training
- Morris County is currently developing its Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Virginia informed the group that a NOAA/National Geodetic Survey webinar was scheduled for later in the afternoon on the topic of the State Plane Coordinate System Update

### **Risk Reduction Plus Group**

- Tyler Ardron, Risk Reduction Plus Group, informed the group that the Flood Reform Act has been extended until May and noted that the program shut down for three days as a result of the partial government shut down.

### **3) Monmouth County Updates**

- Joe Barris provided Michael Oppegaard's update: Monmouth County OEM held a steering committee meeting for its Hazard Mitigation Plan on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. A kickoff meeting for municipalities is being scheduled in February. OEM is working on a public outreach plan.

- Linda Brennan, Monmouth County Planning, discussed the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for Naval Weapons Station Earle, which is in its second phase. The second phase of the project was selected for Department of Defense funding partially because it plans for sea level rise and climate adaptation. The study area will include the bayshore from Sandy Hook to Aberdeen and will identify sites on public land for resiliency projects and get them shovel-ready. The project will use a variety of funding sources for different elements of implementation. A stakeholder meeting will be held in February and Michael Baker International, who is also the consultant for the County Hazard Mitigation Plan, has been selected as the consultant.
- Bridget Neary, Monmouth County Planning, discussed a recent report by Climate Central and Zillow titled “Ocean at the Door: New Homes and the Rising Sea”, that analyzes properties at risk of chronic flooding as a result of sea-level rise. Climate Central’s Surging Seas tools can be used to support several activities that receive CRS credit. The “Ocean at the Door” report and the “Guide to Using Surging Seas Within FEMA’s CRS” are available on the Monmouth County CRS User Group webpage. Garrett Byma noted that towns can receive points by linking their websites to the County webpage.

***Links to the Climate Central & Zillow report and tools have been added to the Monmouth County CRS Program Page and can be found under the Important Program Resources tab.***

#### **4) Guest Speakers – JT White and Suzanna Pho, cofounders of Forerunner**

- JT and Suzanna presented on their CRS project management tool, Forerunner. Forerunner is a cloud-based CRS software product that makes it easy, efficient, and more cost effective for communities to manage their CRS programs. Features include: unlimited user seats, ability to upload and store documents by activity, setting goals, what-ifs, reminders, analysis and ranking of activity/points difficulty, and more. There was discussion about whether the software had been used by any communities for a full cycle yet, which it has not, however JT and Suzanna look forward to it. There was also discussion about how to gain more users and adding additional features. The County is looking into funding /shared-service agreement opportunities to bring Forerunner to Monmouth County CRS users.

#### **5) Announcements**

- The Monmouth County CRS Users Group website has been updated. Thank you to Laura Kirby for maintaining the webpage for us.
- Upcoming CRS User Group Meetings
  - ✓ April 11 @ MCPS Visitor’s Center, Thompson Park
  - ✓ July 11 @ MCPS Visitor’s Center, Thompson Park

- Upcoming CRS Webinars

Register at [www.CRSResources.org/training](http://www.CRSResources.org/training) or find the link through our CRS program page

- ✓ January 15 Introduction to CRS
- ✓ January 16 CRS and Coastal Hazards
- ✓ February 19 The Role of the Community CRS Coordinator
- ✓ February 20 Repetitive Loss Properties and the CRS
- ✓ March 19 Preparing an Annual Recertification
- ✓ March 20 CRS Credit for Floodplain Mapping (Activity 410)

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