

MONMOUTH COUNTY CRS USERS GROUP

January 12, 2023

Log in information:

Webex meeting recording: Monmouth County CRS Users Group January
2023 Meeting

Password: 2MueB23f

Recording link: https://bit.ly/MonmouthCRS_1-12-23

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. County Updates

- MC Planning has launched the new online Technical Assistance Request Form that guides CRS coordinators through the process and ensures county staff have all the information needed to provide those maps in a timely manner.
- Bridget updated the group on Monmouth County's Floodplain Species Assessment and Plan, the next draft of the plan is in progress and participating communities can expect a draft for review in February. Communities who are not participating in the plan are also welcomed to review and comment on the draft and should contact Ashlynn or Bridget if they are interested.
- N.W.S.E. Joint Land Use Studies – both plans are available on the Planning Board's website.
 - Next Steps to Compatibility – This plan is meant to provide strategies for compatible zoning in towns surrounding NWSE
 - Bayshore Coastal Resilience Design Study – This plan's focus on recommendations for improving flood conditions in the Bayshore through ecosystem restoration in Flat Creek in Union Beach, Ware Creek in Aberdeen, and other locations.
- REPI (Readiness & Environmental Protection Integration) – This plan is also completed in cooperation with NWSE as well as the Department of Defense, Bridget explained that MC Planning is finishing a pilot project working on a deed of easement with the DOD for a property adjacent to NWSE.
- Planning for the Monmouth County users' group in 2023 – Ashlynn shared a [link to a survey](#) seeking opinions from users group members on how they would like to meet in 2023 and what topics to cover, to better tailor programming in the year ahead. She also introduced a possible component of this year's meetings - peer to peer learning with community success sharing, where CRS coordinators are invited to share their experiences implementing certain CRS activities and what they would advise other communities.

3. Presentation/ Discussion

Guest Presentation 1: Tyler Taba, Waterfront Alliance

Tyler discussed the Waterfront Alliance's efforts working with legislators and stakeholders to enact flood disclosure legislation in New Jersey and New York, both of which have some of the weakest flood disclosure laws for prospective owners and renters of properties compared to FEMA's best practices and other states.

Presentation is attached, for more information contact Tyler at: ttaba@waterfrontalliance.org

Guest Presentation 2: Vincent Mazzei, NJDEP

Vincent explained NJDEP's regulatory effort entitled NJPACT (Protecting Against Climate Threat) that seeks to reduce harmful emissions while helping NJ's natural and built environments be more resilient to the impacts of climate change. The proposed inland flood rule was also discussed, current FEMA flood maps are based on outdated data that the proposed rule aims to correct by raising fluvial design flood elevations by 2 feet.

Presentation is attached, for more information contact Vincent at: Vincent.Mazzei@dep.nj.gov

Guest Presentation 3: Ammon Lam- NYU PhD candidate

Ammon shared his findings so far conducting research on the factors that influence and hinder communities from participating in the CRS. Using open data from FEMA he has created tools that can estimate savings for prospective CRS communities and several other datasets comparing annual premiums, numbers of policies, and more. Ammon is interested in engaging with CRS communities to inform his continued research, with the goal of understanding determinants of community participation in the CRS and how effective the financial incentives are.

Presentation is attached, for more information or to assist the research project contact Ammon at: asl664@stern.nyu.edu

4. Partner Updates

- UCI/Monmouth University – Tom Harrington
 - The UCI has been working with NWSE with funding from the office of Naval Research to work in the Atlantic Highlands, which will involve the Henry Hudson Trail site identified in the Bayshore Coastal Resilience Design Study and creating a living shorelines pilot project. Efforts to secure funds advancing projects in Aberdeen have also been underway.
 - Tom also shared that the New Jersey Coastal Resilience Collaborative is having their full partnership meeting on January 23rd from 1pm-2:30pm, all are welcomed to join.
- ISO/Verisk – Gina Agosta
 - Gina confirmed that the only Monmouth County community to have their CAV this year will be Spring Lake.
 - Gina shared an update from ISO reviewer Melissa James: Melissa is still working through the last batch of recertifications and wants to remind coordinators that when they receive an email from her it will include spreadsheets of just the numerical review point breakdowns and a separate one contains her comments. ISO is also expecting a new form and strongly encouraged users to sign up for the newsletter for news on its release.
- NJDEP – Kenya Lovill and Becky Jones

Kenya shared that NJDEP will be hosting trainings on the federal flood risk management standards and how to construct structures for federally funded projects correctly when there's conflicts with state law on January, 25th and 26.
- Forerunner – Liz Russell and Bob Irland
 - Liz reminded the group that Forerunner does have a public website available to all communities that is relevant to flood disclosure including things like flood zones, elevation certificates, warnings about insurance requirements, and more. They also have a couple of items designed for inland flood risks, for example, being able to overlay future flood data over FEMA's flood maps and parcel data. They also have various custom data overrides. So that as flood rules change, Forerunner has items in its system that will let floodplain managers select which design flood elevation should be is appropriate for each property and again sort of share that with the community internally and also publicly. Forerunner's customer success team is always happy to help current or prospective customers in learning how to use the software to the greatest extent possible by each community.
 - Bob Irland introduced himself as a new customer success manager with Forerunner primarily working with New Jersey communities.
- New Jersey Association of Floodplain Managers (NJAFM) - Joe Barris

Joe provided updates from NJAFM as executive director, first there is an upcoming CFM training free of charge. NJAFM has a newsletter distributing in the fall and spring, if anybody wants to make a contribution to the newsletter, they should contact Joe. Joe also noted that Ammon is here because he is a student member of NJAFM, student memberships for New Jersey residents are free of charge. There are NJAFM efforts conducting outreach with local academic organizations throughout New Jersey boosting membership, there are also plans to conduct a student networking event possibly at Rutgers. Finally, NJAFM is going to start charging a nominal fee for online trainings for non-members.