

## **1<sup>st</sup> Joint Monmouth-Ocean Counties CRS Users Groups Meeting 09/20/18 Meeting Notes**

Meeting was held at the Ocean County Administration Building, 101 Hooper Avenue, Toms River at 10:30 a.m.

1) **Welcome** from Mark Villinger, Ocean County Planning Department and Joe Barris, Monmouth County Division of Planning.

- This month's meeting is the first joint Monmouth/Ocean County CRS Users Group Meeting
- Joe thanked representatives from 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) **Guest Speaker** – John Miller, PE/CFM. – former United States Senate Fellow

- Mr. Miller presented on his work as a former US Senate Fellow, where he worked on Federal floodplain management rules and policies. He discussed some of the policies that he worked on and explained that much of the stricter floodplain management rules and policies enacted by the previous administration were removed by the current administration, however some of those rules and policies that were removed are now being reexamined and reinstated in pieces through other Federal agencies such as HUD. He also discussed the NFIP reauthorization and some of the proposed changes to the program. He expressed his belief that communities participating in CRS may have an advantage when it comes to possible reforms of NFIP.

3) **Guest Speaker** – Dr. Stewart Farrell. – Stockton University's Coastal Research Center

- Dr. Farrell discussed a variety of topics related to the research he does at the Coastal Research Center. Topics included the vulnerability of barrier islands, beach erosion and replenishment, and the process of taking beach profiles. He reviewed work he has completed in Avalon, NJ using instruments placed in storm drains to measure nuisance flooding and has a project ongoing in Long Beach Township, NJ. He also discussed the process of completing a Watershed Master Plan (WMP, Activity 450) and presented information from one underway in Long Beach Township.

4) **FEMA/NJDEP Update**

- Jim Watt, NJDEP, reminded and encouraged the group to attend the NJAFM conference in October. He informed the group that the CFM exam can be taken at the NJAFM conference and that Middlesex and Hunterdon County dates have been added.

5) **Monmouth/Ocean Updates**

- Joe Barris stated that he is trying to secure the Visitor's Center in Thompson Park, Lincroft for the 2019 User Group meetings in Monmouth County. He can't reserve until the end of December so he may need to have the first meeting of the year in an alternate location.
- Joe noted that Garrett Byma, ISO, was not present at the meeting, but Garrett provided him with an update to give to the group.
  - ✓ Recertifications have been sent out by email and they are due back no later than Oct 15. The earlier the better. If a community hasn't received their recertification package yet they should contact either Garrett or Christina Turpin immediately.
  - ✓ The 2018 repetitive loss data will be sent out to communities via email over the next month. Keep in mind, there are over 1200 communities with data so this takes a little time and please be patient.

- Mark Villinger noted that Ocean County's CRS website is live but will be updated with more information shortly. He added that many towns ask for the Hazard Mitigation Plan annual updates. These can be found on the Sheriff's OEM website and are now linked to this CRS page as well.
- Mark advised everyone to look at their agendas for those important upcoming dates including the next CRS meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> which will be at the County OEM in Berkeley.
- Mark noted that the Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant period is open for the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grants. Applications are due to NJOEM through eGrants by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Details are available on NJOEM's website and interested applications are encouraged to reach out to Chris Testa and his team for more information.

#### 6) Announcements

- Mary-Carson Stiff is working through a NOAA grant to garner input from CRS communities on how the CRS program could better support resilience building in coastal communities.
- Monmouth County Group is to submit suggestions, comments, recommendations, or solutions to Joe Barris by noon on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Ocean County Group was encouraged to reach out to Mary-Carson directly or by submitting comments to Mark Villinger for a summary response.

#### 7) Comments, Questions, and Discussion

Monmouth County CRS Users Group Quarterly meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month (October/January/April/July)

***Next Meeting is January 10, 2019 @ 10am- Location TBD***

Ocean County CRS Users Group Quarterly meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (December/March/June/September)

***Next Meeting is December 13, 2018 @ 10:30am. Ocean County Sheriff's OEM, Berkeley Township***