

ANNUAL JOINT MONMOUTH-OCEAN COUNTIES CRS USERS GROUP

September 15th, 2022

Recording link: https://bit.ly/CRS_Sept22

Password: sQV2a7rW

1) Welcome & Introductions

2) Guest Presentations

Forerunner Updates and Benefits for CRS Communities

Liz Russel and Susanna Pho presented the capabilities of the Forerunner software including elevation certificate management, as well as newer features like the upload of other documents for specific properties. The public community profile feature was demonstrated which allowed community members to gather information about their flood risk.

CRS Submit and CRS Viz: Online tools for CRS communities

Danielle DeHart from Verisk gave an overview of several CRS websites available to help CRS coordinators. CRS Viz was shown as a data visualization platform that allows users to compare CRS scores and activities throughout the state and country. CRS Submit was discussed as a tool for 3–5-year verification visits to help coordinators as they are submitting documentation. The documentation is uploaded and stored in one place, and guidance from the CRS Coordinator’s Manual is available on the website.

3) County Updates

Monmouth County

Forerunner license status

Joe Barris updated users on the status of Monmouth County’s Forerunner license, which is expiring at the end of 2023. Towns were advised that now is the time to work the licensing costs into their budgets for 2024. The county is looking into options to continue funding the use of the software.

Activity 440 Self Service Web Mapping Application and Online Technical Assistance Request Form

Ashlynn Shanahan presented on Monmouth County’s new Self Service Web Mapping Application for CRS Activity 440. The application gives access to user friendly maps to all communities regardless of CRS participation as well as members of the public. A new form for requesting technical assistance from the County was also demonstrated, the form will be used beginning in 2023.

Ocean County

Ocean County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan and Notice of Funding Opportunity for BRIC and FMA

Mark Villinger shared an update on Ocean County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan which was adopted in 2019, this plan is expected to be rewritten soon with the use of grant funding. Communities were reminded that part of the Hazard Mitigation Plan involves annual updates using Action Progress worksheets along with Update and Annual Review worksheets that are included as appendices to the plan. Completing these worksheets are also important to informing applications for BRIC and FMA funding, Mark announced that the applications for these grants would be open at the end of September and closing in November.

4) Partner Updates

- New Jersey Coastal Coalition – Executive Director Tom Quirk discussed NJCC’s actions with their MJPPI so far, as well as plans to expand into Ocean County with opportunity for Monmouth County communities to join as well. Participation in the MJPPI requires NJCC membership, while Monmouth and Ocean County are both NJCC members, Mark Villinger noted that it is important for the towns themselves to be members of NJCC as they are the ones responsible for paying fees associated with the MJPPI.
- ISO/Verisk – Danielle DeHart shared that annual verifications are due October 15th, and that CRS specialists are available to help communities review their program and point breakdown to identify areas where more points could be earned, especially as some communities are losing up to 500 points from ABFE credits.
- NJDEP – Kenya Lovill shared that NJDEP created a substantial damage management plan template last year that can help communities who may be losing credits. Guidance on Federal Funds Risk Management Standard and how those interact with New Jersey standards is being developed.
- FEMA - None
- Jacque Cousteau Estuarine Research Reserve (JCERR) – Amanda Archer introduced herself as a new employee of JCNERR.
- New Jersey Association of Floodplain Managers (NJAFM) – Elissa Commins shared that NJAFM is actively working to comment on [PACK] regulations. Letters were also drafted to NJDEP as well as commissioners of the state senate assembly’s environmental commission aimed at getting Certified Floodplain Management as an accredited program in the state of New Jersey and recognized as a necessity for every community.

5) Open Floor (Questions, Comments, Discussions)

The next Ocean County CRS User Group meeting is scheduled for December 15th.

The date of the next Monmouth County CRS User Group meeting is TBD.

No October Meeting for the Monmouth County CRS User Group - NJAFM Conference