

MONMOUTH COUNTY CRS USERS GROUP

07/12/18 Meeting Notes

Meeting was held at Hazlet Township Municipal Building, 1776 Union Avenue, Hazlet at 10:00 a.m.

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

- This month's meeting marks the 5-year anniversary of the first Monmouth County CRS Users Group 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) Guest Speaker – Rouzbeh Nazari, Ph.D. – Director of Rowan Resiliency Lab

- Dr. Nazari presented on the New Jersey Flood Alert Tool developed by his team. The tool was developed to consider social vulnerabilities and civil engineering in relation to flood resiliency. Dr. Nazari described the massive amount of data that was gathered by his team and the tool development process that included hydrodynamic modeling, bridge and lifeline structure analysis, scour analysis, vulnerability assessment, identification of existing resources, and community outreach. The two pilot towns for this tool are Brick and Woodbridge Townships; however Dr. Nazari hopes to expand this tool to all of New Jersey in the future. He discussed the implications of this tool and tools similar to it and described the ways in which it is currently being used and will be used in the future, such as for risk analysis by potential buyers, insurance providers, and lenders.

3) FEMA/NJDEP Update

- Jim Watt, NJDEP, informed the group that the CFM exam can be taken at the NJAFM conference in October and that Middlesex and Hunterdon County dates will be added soon.

4) ISO Update

- Joe Barris noted that Garrett Byma, ISO, was not present at the meeting and congratulated him on the birth of his child

5) MCOEM Update

- Mike Oppegaard, MCOEM, gave an update on the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). RFPs are due by June 17th, 2018 and the contract will be awarded by the end of August. He noted that criteria for the contract award is more stringent than last plan and that the RFP was rewritten to incorporate CRS into the plan which will assist towns in maximizing CRS activity points. He also noted that the development of this plan will incorporate a more interactive approach with municipal officials and that, with the help of the steering committee, will identify projects to focus on obtaining grant money for.

Jim Watt commented that Sea Isle City who recently achieved a rating of 3 in the CRS program, received a significant number of points as a result of the Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Joe Barris commented that CRS activity 510 will be emphasized in the plan. Jim recommended including provision in the HMP that would help towns with CRS and prerequisites to higher class attainment.

- MCOEM purchased electronic billboard space and geo-fencing for the month of September to promote “Know Your Zone”. This technology will track how many hits the “Know Your Zone” webpage gets and from what locations.
- Monmouth County Planning is providing technical support to OEM for work on the HMP.

6) MC Planning Update

- Joe Barris, Assistant Planning Director, distributed and discussed the “What If” table and Activity Point Matrix, an advisory resource produced by the Monmouth County Division of Planning. He noted that Highlands and Rumson are interested in joining the CRS program and Jim Watt commented that Fair Haven is interested. The table will be made available on the Monmouth County CRS Users Group web page.
- Joe Barris congratulated Monmouth County GIS staff Meghan Leavey and Michael Davenport on their ESRI Special Achievement Award for the Know Your Zone and High Water Mark Story Map. Meghan is currently in San Diego accepting the award.
- The Monmouth County Division of Planning and Planning Board conducted a study and submitted comments to the USFWS regarding the expansion of the CBRS in the County. Rumson also submitted comments.

7) Guest Speaker – Jason Miller, P.E., CFM, CSM – USACE NJ Silver Jackets Coordinator

- Jason Miller presented on purpose and role of the Silver Jackets. Silver Jackets are an interagency collaboration that seeks to leverage resources and reduce overlap in floodplain management services. Among other things, the Silver Jackets host workshops, offer a library of inundation maps, and conduct studies. The Silver Jackets are currently working on a transportation study for coastal areas. Any government official can be added to the email list to get news and learn about various webinars and workshops. Contact Jason Miller to be added.

8) Announcements

- The Monmouth County CRS Users Group website has been updated. Thank you to Laura Kirby.
- Regional Resilience Grant Program available through NJDEP (HUD grant) –application due on July 20th
- Nature Conservancy Webinar-Living Shorelines –July 17 - information on CRS Users Group website

9) Comments, Questions, and Discussion

- Lisa Auermuller, Assistant Manager of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve announced that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will be offering planning and implementation grants for resilience projects. The application has not been released yet, but is anticipated to be shortly.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 10am; TBD. *This will be our first joint Monmouth/Ocean County CRS Users Group Meeting