

NORFMA CRS User Group Meeting Notes

Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association – Community Rating System Users Group

Date: January 17, 2013 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Location: Snohomish County Public Works

Attendees (Everett): Dennis Dixon, Mary Hurner, Anne-marie Marshall-Dody, French Wetmore, Monika Lange

(Webcast-Conference Call) Becca Croft, Marlene Jacobs, Dianna Woods,

Introductions: - In room and Phone conferencing - Webcast

Presentations:

Monika Lange - Lummi Nation

A Tribal Perspective of Floodplain Management.

The Lummi Nation was one of the first Indian nations under the Self Government Demonstration Project in 1988. In 1997 the tribe passed their own flood plain regulations and then joined the NFIP. They joined CRS in 2010 and are one of two tribes enrolled in the program. They are also one of the first tribes to have a Multi-Hazard Plan.

Located in Bellingham Washington, the reservation is located on Lummi Point between Sand Point and Portage Island. The Lummi are impacted by seasonal flooding of the Nooksack River and king tides. There are no repetitive loss properties on the reservation, but flooding does causes closure of the shellfish beds due to pollution. Floodplain management within the reservation has a complicated relationship between the Tribe and County since jurisdiction may vary depending on the tribal status of the property owner.

French Wetmore – French & Associates

Open Space & Low Density Zoning (420)

August 2013 the old CRS Manual will expire. FEMA has requested an emergency approval of the new plan to meet ESA rules. ISO staff nationwide will be receiving training in mid April. Once the training is complete, local communities will be reviewed under the new manual. Field training opportunities are not likely this year. FEMA is thinking about field training or web training in the future. Two new FloodSmart websites are being launched: 1) crsresources.org; and, 2) crs2012.org.

Under the new manual, Open Space credit doubles. Buildings, fill and pavement do not count in your open space calculations, but cemeteries can be counted. Natural Function Open Space will be the pre-requisite for all activities which follow it. Potential points earned are prorated to the total of a

jurisdiction's SFHA. Needed documentation regarding any of the activities must be from an expert which can be an in house expert. For those jurisdictions which have a CMZ, that will count towards natural function open space.

Dennis Dixon – Pierce County

Annual Repetitive Loss and Insurance Policy Data Deliveries

For any CRS community with repetitive loss properties ISO sends out a CD each year listing the Repetitive Loss - RL and Severe Repetitive Loss – RSL, historic losses and insurance policy information. In the last year ISO has expanded the data on the CD to include not only a listing of properties with flood insurance but information on flood zones, elevation differences, and covered amounts. This information can be sent to any CRS community, on request, who fortunately is not shown to have Repetitive Loss properties.

There are a number of potential uses for this data in concert with public outreach projects. From LOMC assistance to targeting buyouts to getting more accurate policy coverages based on true flood zone determinations. There are difficulties with the data. The CD usually arrives more than 6 months after the data was pulled from the FEMA database. This makes the bulk of the policy data obsolete and will be difficult to track flood insurance purchasing trends following a PPI outreach. The data also shows many properties outside of the community boundaries. This is primarily due to annexations but error rates of 40 percent continue. Ideas for improvements to the data release would include the building count and location of insured structures; lat/long positions used on the EC rather than census track data.

See handouts for data dictionary, locations, and examples of outreach opportunities.

Next Meeting set for April 25th 1 – 3 pm at the Pierce County SWM office in the Tacoma Mall Plaza

This will be a week after ISO staff has there comprehensive training on the 2013 CRS Manual.