

NORFMA CRS Users Group

Northwest Floodplain Management Association – Community Rating System

March 17, 2016

Pierce County SWM - Tacoma Mall Plaza

Minutes

Attendance: Dennis Dixon – Pierce County, Pat Allen – Thurston County, French Wetmore – French & Assoc., Brian Larson- City of Stanwood*, Becca Fricke-Croft – STARR*

*Skype participant

1:00 – 1:10 introductions

City of Stanwood is ready to join CRS

1:10 – 1:30 new Elevation certificate

OMB policy is that extensions are not allowed so the new EC will be effective and needs to be used as soon as it becomes available. The new (2015) EC is included in the NFIP insurance manual but has been removed from the few websites that it was initially found. FEMA is correcting some issues with the EC and will have the revised one posted soon. CRS will not expect communities to use the EC if it is not available for user downloads so using the expired 2012 EC will not get you docked in a verification cycle for now. The new EC is adding a new building diagram (2B) that accounts for basements where the grade next to the house has been excavated and makes a low point.

Becca pointed out the new EC Compliance tool has been developed by Region X. It is a spreadsheet that will validate EC entries and flag potential issues.

1:30 – 2:00 discuss CRS Manual

Dennis is taking comments on the current (2013) CRS Manual to review with the CRS Task Force meeting for next week's meeting in Sacramento.

Verification takes too much staff time. Both Thurston & Pierce report more than 1,000 hours of staff time dedicated to last cycle visit.

Need to remove references in the manual to documents that are obsolete and/or out of print.

300 – letters sent to realtors/insurance agents/lenders needs to be revised from what was allowed in the past.

320/360 - Property assistance has changed and documentation requirements. Need to have more examples posted on the CRS Resources web site to help communities see what is acceptable.

540 – CRS program needs to recognize complex asset management programs used for tracking maintenance and flood calls and not try to force a community into using the simple forms or a single system that might look like the examples in the CRS Manual.

600 – Issues with how prerequisites are described in Activity 200 vs. what is required in 600 series. Need better guidance on dam inundation mapping and what is expected. Washington dam classifications might not align with CRS classifications, shouldn't this be consistent nationwide?

2:00 – 3:15 Repetitive loss Area Analysis - RLAA

French Wetmore (French & Associates) made a presentation on Repetitive Loss Area Analysis. This is from Activity 501.b and a requirement for Class C Rep Loss communities (e.g. communities with 10 or more un-mitigated repetitive loss properties). French also brought an example of a recently completed RLAA done for Thurston County. Both are to be posted on the NORFMA website.

Repetitive loss properties are based on what was paid out and not the claim made by the policy holder.

3:15 – 3:20 agenda topics and users group structure

Quarterly meetings scheduled for the rest of the year.

3:20 Adjournment