

**Florida Floodplain Managers Association
2019 Annual Conferences
Abstracts**

Title: A short history of the CRS: How we got to where we are today

Length: 30 minutes

Subject: Community Rating System (CRS)

Target Audience: Local officials

Presenter Name: French Wetmore, CFM
Consultant
French & Associates, Ltd.

Biography: French Wetmore is President of French & Associates, a floodplain management consulting firm in Steilacoom, Washington.

After graduating from Indiana University in 1968, French served in the Army for three years. He then received a Master’s in Public Administration from Syracuse University (1972) and worked as a city administrator for several Illinois communities. After some of them flooded, he became Chief of Local Floodplain Programs for the Illinois Division of Water Resources and State Flood Insurance Coordinator until 1988.

French was the lead consultant to FEMA and the Insurance Services Office on the Community Rating System from its inception in 1988 through 2014. He was the primary author of the CRS Coordinator’s Manual and numerous guides for communities on the CRS. He is still a consultant to the program.

French served as Chair of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (1985 – 1987) and President of the Certification Board of Regents (2001 – 2004).

Co-Presenter: None

Biography:

Abstract: A short history of the CRS: How we got to where we are today

The first time the Community Rating System was mentioned by FEMA was in 1982. In 1987, FEMA formed a Task Force to review the concept and see if it was viable. By 1990, the program was up and running and now has over 1,500 participating communities with 70% of the nation’s flood insurance policies.

This talk will review the early years and early decisions that were made about how the CRS would work. It tracks the development of the program to its roll out in 1990, the lessons learned that produced changes in the early 1990s, and overall assessments since then that gave us the 2013 and 2017 CRS Coordinator’s Manuals.

There will be time at the end for questions like “why is it done this way” on specific activities and elements.