

MEMORANDUM

To: Bruce A. MacLeod, City Manager
Mayor and City Council Members

From: Lisa C. Taylor- Chairperson
Floodplain Management Committee
CRS Coordinator

Subject: Annual Progress Report
City of Cape May Floodplain Management Plan

Date: September 24, 2010

Resolution No. 210-09-2009, September 10, 2009 adopted the City of Cape May's Floodplain Management Plan. The Floodplain Management Plan is available for review on our website at ***capemaycity.com***. As part of the October 1, 2009 annual community rating system recertification and a condition to the five year cycle review on May 18, 2009. This memorandum is our progress report.

For credit under the Community Rating System, the memorandum must be distributed to the media and be made available to the public. Copies will be available for review at the Construction/Zoning Department in City Hall at 643 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ 08204, and notice of availability is being posted on our website at ***capemaycity.com***

BACKGROUND

The City of Cape May is a 2.2 square mile community located at the southern end of New Jersey and Cape May County.

The City of Cape May has voluntarily been active in the (CRS) program since 1995.

The original CRS REPETITIVE LOSS PLAN –Resolution No. 238-9-99, adopted on September 28, 1999 was prepared as part of the voluntary participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) to take all appropriate action to prevent flooding, reduce flood damage to property and public infrastructure, avoid economic disruption, and make our coastal community a safe place to live and visit. The Repetitive Loss Plan included a detailed analysis of mapping of flood loss properties.

An annual progress report has been submitted each year on October 1st documenting all the activities listed in the original Repetitive Loss Plan that the City of Cape May has implemented, including updating our Floodplain Management Ordinance, establishing a base flood elevation required for all new and substantial improvement construction. Several properties in the City of Cape May have been raised to the base flood elevation to prevent further flood damage.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

The City of Cape May Floodplain Management Plan was prepared by Craig R. Hurless, PP, of Polistina Associates, LLC, 6684 Washington Avenue, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234. The plan was adopted on September 10, 2009. The plan was submitted to the ISO/CRS Specialist for review on October 1, 2009 along with our annual certification.

As of July 1, 2010, the City of Cape May was not notified of the status of the Floodplain Management Plan review score. An email was sent by the CRS Coordinator to Amanda Gowens- ISO/CRS Specialist requesting the status of the review of the City of Cape May's Floodplain Management Plan. The response from ISO/CRS on the same day was that our plan was sent for technical review and was scored. The City of Cape May received 184 points or the plan. The addition of these points did not result in a class change. The City of Cape May rating is currently a class 8 community.

WHY ITEMS HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED:

As of this date our plan is still under technical review. Mr. Craig R. Hurless, PP who has prepared the plan along with the City of Cape May have requested a re-review of the adopted Floodplain Management Plan- for the requirements as per activity 510 (Floodplain Management Planning) 511.a Credit points.

The City of Cape May's Floodplain Management Plan is a work in progress. When a final review and credit points for the plan are determined, the City of Cape May will start the process of implementing the goals listed in the plan.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The City of Cape May Floodplain Management Committee was appointed on July 1, 2009. The committee consisted of six public officials and six public representatives. The planning process was completed in approximately two months. The objective of the committee was to recommend and discuss the key steps of the planning process, which included assessing the hazard and problems, and to set goals for the plan. Review of possible activities were discussed, and to draft an action plan. The Floodplain management committee's meeting agendas, and meeting minutes were submitted with the October 1, 2009 annual ISO/CRS recertification.

MAPPING

The City of Cape May Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) is dated April, 1994. FEMA representatives have contacted the City of Cape May about revising all flood maps in Cape May County. FEMA Region 2 will be hosting a webinar/conference call on September 30, 2010 to provide an overview of the current and future Risk Map projects in Cape May County.

Once the map is updated, it will be a crucial part of the Floodplain Management Plan. Many newer streets and subdivisions are not listed on the existing map. A log is kept for all requests by either in person, email or telephone for Flood Zone Information.

CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

Provides flood protection information to residents through a variety of means including:

1. Flood Protection reference pamphlets (Flood vents, foundation) requirements as per the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, International Codes and local Floodplain Ordinance requirements.
2. An elevation survey is required at the completion of foundation for all new construction and additions.
3. Continuing the public information activities credited by the Community Rating System.
4. Available publications including the CRS newsletter, flood proofing, and elevation certificate information.

All publications are also available at the City of Cape May Library.

NEWSLETTER

The City of Cape May Annual Newsletter sent out in July of each year to all residents covering the nine topics which (CRS) credits are based.

Flood Hazard

Flood Map

Flood Safety

Flood Insurance

Property Protection

Permit Requirements

Substantial improvement requirements

Drainage maintenance

Hurricanes

These were all included in the Newsletter for 2010.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

The City of Cape May Public Works Department maintains a listing of all storm drain locations within the city. A log is kept to show the cleaning schedule of removing debris from the storm drains.

BEACH REPLENISHMENT

The City of Cape May has a 50 year contract commitment from the Federal Government to maintain the entire City of Cape May beachfront at least until the year 2040. The beach restoration helps protect properties in the city from flooding due to coastal storms. According to the City of Cape May Beach Management Plan, the US Army Corp. of Engineers is currently 16 years in the construction phase of a 50 year nourishment program that includes all Cape May City west of the Cape May Inlet. This is a continuing project that is listed in the Floodplain Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The City of Cape May will continue with Floodplain Management Committee meetings for implementing the Floodplain Management Plan recommendations.
2. The City of Cape May and County of Cape May shall continue working together on outreach projects for evacuation procedures and information to the public for hurricane preparedness, coastal storm and flooding through the offices of local and county emergency management.
3. Identify historically significant sites and/or structures to build a case for mitigation measures later in the plan.
4. Working together along with the COASTAL MANAGEMENT STAFF who have attended our Floodplain Management Plan meetings and have offered their expertise in developing a Mitigation plan.
5. To provide a continued updated mapping of the repetitive loss properties located within the City of Cape May.
6. To have public meetings with all property owners in the repetitive loss areas.
7. Update the City of Cape May's website to include the revised newsletter articles, property owners' notification of the Floodplain Management Plan's progress report and any updates that will be added.