



Technical Assistance: CRS Training/Evaluations Summary 2023-2024

CRS Training / Evaluations Completed

In fiscal year 2023, Wetlands Watch provided two intensive trainings on the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System for regional planning commission staff in Virginia's Coastal Zone. These trainings were conducted in response to the need for regional CRS support as Wetlands Watch has completed seventeen trainings funded by grants from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program. The goal of these training was to increase regional government staff knowledge and interest in the CRS Program, while offering an opportunity for staff to gain a head start on the application process to join the Program. The training also included a comprehensive review of community actions to determine an estimated CRS class rating and corresponding flood insurance premium discount savings across the community. The following planning districts received this training on the following dates:

- Northern Virginia Regional Commission - April 21st, 2024
- Crater Planning District Commission - July 25, 2024

The trainings included the following agenda: An overview of basic National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) principals (including an update on the NFIP's new flood insurance premium rating methodology), a detailed CRS Program review, in-depth explanations of credit requirements and documentation for three sample CRS Program activities, a profile of the CRS Program across the country and in the state of Virginia, examples of resources and support available for CRS Program administration, a discussion of the costs and benefits of joining the CRS using Wetlands Watch's Report, "The Costs & Benefits of the CRS Program in Virginia" (2017) in combination with an overview of how to determine the potential cost savings for a community, the importance of the creation of an interdepartmental CRS Team, and a comprehensive review of community actions and staff designations to help determine an estimated CRS Program class rating and corresponding savings.

Regional government staff from each training received the following deliverables and examples of completed deliverables to utilize when supporting service area localities to consider joining the CRS:

- CRS Training PowerPoint Presentation (PDF)
- CRS Team Departmental Chart (PDF)
- CRS Detailed Quick Check (Excel): This document includes detailed information shared during the training by community staff regarding CRS activities. If the community decides to join the CRS Program, this will not be submitted to FEMA, but will be extremely helpful as the community staff prepares for the in-person meeting with ISO.
- CRS Quick Check for FEMA/ISO (PDF): Local staff would send this document to FEMA/ ISO in the event the community decides to initiate the process to join the CRS.
- CRS Training Summary Report (PDF): Local staff could offer this marketing document to a decision-making board as the community decides whether to join the CRS. The summary report includes an estimated CRS class rating and corresponding flood insurance premium percentage savings for the community.

Additional CRS Technical Assistance

In addition to the CRS training/evaluations provided during FY 2023, Wetlands Watch provided CRS support to the City of Colonial Heights, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and the City of Chesapeake, in the form of general support and capacity for localities who have not joined the program and by providing detailed research for specific questions regarding the Program fielded from localities who are participating and seeking to increase their class ratings.

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