

Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan - 2019

The NJSEA participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). This is a voluntary program which affords a discount on flood insurance premium rates for residents and businesses in the District. It is a point-based system which accumulates credits for certain activities related to flooding mitigation while providing progressively larger discounts on the premium rates. The CRS requires annual recertification between the five-year cycle applications to maintain the discount.

On March 16, 2017, the NJSEA formally adopted the Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan under Resolution 2017-07. The purpose of this action was to provide additional credits under the CRS program for the 2016 five-year cycle application, which maintains the classification of the Meadowlands District as a CRS Class 7 Community with a 15% discount on flood insurance premium rates.

A Floodplain Management Plan specific to the District is being prepared by NJSEA staff for the next five-year cycle application in 2021. As an interim step in this process and to ensure that the Meadowlands District maintained the 15% discount, the Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted for the current five-year cycle.

One of the requirements for the District's annual recertification is a yearly submittal of a progress report to the CRS program administrator. The credited Hazard Mitigation Plan is being updated for 2020 by Michael Baker International. The following progress report is derived from information provided at the in-person meetings coordinated by Michael Baker International with personnel from each of the ten Bergen County municipalities in the Meadowlands.

CRS Activity 510

Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan

Date this Report was Prepared: 10/5/2019

Name of Community: NJ Meadowlands Commission (NJSEA) (340570)

Name of Plan: Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Date of Adoption of Plan: FEMA Approval Date: April 13, 2015
Adopted by NJSEA: March 16, 2017

5 Year CRS Expiration Date: 2021

1. How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained:

A copy of the original plan can be obtained from the Bergen County website.
<https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/emergency-management/all-hazard-mitigation-plan>

2. Describe how this evaluation report was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public:

To evaluate the progress of the Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the NJSEA attended in-person meetings with the municipal engineers, Departments of Public Works personnel and Office of Emergency Management personnel for the Bergen County municipalities which are included in the Meadowlands District as part of the process for updating the Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2020. These meetings were coordinated by Michael Baker International, which is the entity preparing the updated plan. During the meetings, summaries of the status of projects in their municipalities were provided by the attendees.

Copies of this progress report have been submitted to the Board of Commissioners of the NJSEA. A press release has been submitted by the Public Information Officer of the NJSEA to the Bergen Record, NJ.com and NorthJersey.com, local media outlets, in regards to this progress report. Copies of this report have also been electronically submitted to the New Jersey NFIP Coordinating Office.

A copy of this progress report is available to the public on the website of the NJSEA under the Floodplain Management section.

<http://www.njsea.com/njmc/land/floodplain-management.html>

3. Provide a description of the implementation of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how the project was implemented or not implemented during the previous year:

- Acquire emergency backup generators for critical facilities in the County.
 - Through the use of federal funding provided by the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Energy Allocation Initiative, communities across the District were provided with emergency generators to support critical facilities (pump stations for stormwater and sanitary waste, wastewater treatment plants, shelters, fire departments, public works facilities, etc.).
- Upgrade the communications systems for emergency response in the municipalities.
 - Through the use of grants as well as municipal budgeting, multiple municipalities have enhanced or replaced their emergency communication systems.
- Maintenance of drainage ditches, catch basins and stormwater infrastructure.
 - The NJSEA provided a disposal facility for the removed debris from stormwater infrastructure at the Keegan Landfill in Kearny.
 - Bergen County has continued the process of retrofitting larger stormwater outfalls (24" diameter and up) into the Hackensack River and its tributaries with duck-bill tide gates.
 - Other municipalities have also provided maintenance for stormwater infrastructure but only on an as-needed basis due to federal, county and municipal funding limitations.
- A self-cleaning trash rack was installed at the Losen Slote Storm Water Pump Station. This regional Pump Station serves five municipalities but is owned and operated by Little Ferry.
 - This self-cleaning trash rack ensures continued operations without diminished capacity of the pumps during storm events.
- Purchasing repetitive loss properties within the Special Flood Hazard Area.
 - Multiple municipalities have started to incorporate this as an option, but there are federal, county and municipal financial constraints.

4. Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule:

While there may be certain site-specific reasons that individual action items have not been implemented or are behind schedule, the overriding factor is the lack of sufficient federal, county and municipal funding to carry out the objectives.

5. What are the recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations?

The NJSEA has recommended several projects which will be included in the upcoming 2021 NJSEA Floodplain Management Plan:

- Provide improved access to the West Riser Tide Gates for continued maintenance.
- Rebuild By Design has proposed the installation of a pump station at the East Riser Tide Gates.
- Investigate the installation of additional pump stations at critical tide gates within the District.
- Using drones to inspect drainage ditches in the District to view currently inaccessible areas and investigate obstructions in the systems.
- Continue to survey the stormwater infrastructure (catch basins, manholes, etc.) in the District to more clearly delineate drainage basins and provide improved information for stormwater management.