



# THE TOWNSHIP OF UPPER

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## Memo

To: Township Committee

From: Paul Dietrich, Sr.  
CRS Coordinator

CC: Martin Pagliughi, Cape May County OEM Director  
Scott Morgan, Upper Township OEM Director

Subject: Annual progress report  
Floodplain Management Planning

Date: October 17, 2017

Upper Township participated with the County of Cape May in preparing an All Hazards Mitigation Plan. This plan was completed in May 2016 and Upper Township approved the plan on June 13, 2016 with Resolution No. 146-2016. The plan was submitted and approved by FEMA Region II. This plan serves as the Township's Floodplain Management Plan.

Upper Township participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). FEMA verified the actions that the Township has taken to promote and prepare for floodplain management under the NFIP standards. During the recertification process in 2016 Upper Township was upgraded to a CRS Class 5 rating. This qualifies the Township residents for a 20% discount on their flood insurance policies which saves those residents approximately \$120,000 annually.

Upper Township must annually recertify the programs that it undertakes to verify that we are still in compliance with the NFIP standards. Copies of this report will be available on the Township's website and Township Clerk's office and sent to the local newspapers.

Under the CRS, there are 15 activities recognized as measures that reduce or eliminate exposure to floods. Credit points are assigned to each of these 15 activities. The activities are organized under four main categories: Public Information, Mapping and Regulation, Flood Damage Reduction, and Flood Preparedness. Each category will be reviewed in this report.

## **Public Information Activities**

The Township performs several public information activities including the following:

- Maintain separate file of Elevation Certificates as well as posting them online
- Maintain copies of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and provide information to residents, surveyors, real-estate agents and title companies. Upon request I prepare electronic maps showing the requested property and the FIRM flood hazard zones. Township Committee adopted the new FIRMs and they became effective October 5, 2017.
- An annual outreach is sent to all residents in the Township with their tax bills and to lenders, insurance agents and real estate offices. This was sent on July 14 2015 and October 17, 2015 respectively. This information is also posted on the Township's website.
- The public library in Petersburg and Strathmere maintain FEMA publications regarding flood protection.
- When people call or email the Township information is provided to them on their FIRM zone and requirements for flood insurance. A log is maintained of the number of contacts that are made and the information that is requested and provided.

These activities will be continued for next year. Between September 2016 and August 2017 there were 8 new buildings constructed in the Special Flood Hazard Area and 2 were for substantial damage properties. There were no substantial improvement projects during this period. The Township worked with the Coastal Coalition to develop a Program for Public Information in accordance with the 2013 CRS Coordinators Manual. This was submitted to FEMA for review in 2017.

## **Mapping and Regulatory Activities**

The Township performs several mapping and regulatory activities including the following:

- The Township's open space has continued to be maintained.
- The Township updates its GIS with new subdivisions
- The Township continues to enforce the building code and Township Floodplain management ordinance. The zoning ordinance has not been changed to affect any of the Township's low density zoning districts. The Flood Hazard Ordinance was revised to increase the freeboard from one foot to two feet. The flood protection elevation is measured to the lowest horizontal structural member. This ordinance became effective on October 5, 2017.
- The Township maintains a list of elevation reference marks for the public and land surveyors.
- The Township's stormwater management ordinances remain unchanged and are enforced.
- The Township reviews development applications to make sure there is positive runoff away from all new buildings.

- The Township continues to regulate new construction in accordance with FEMA's Preliminary Flood Hazard data.

These activities will be continued for next year.

### **Flood Damage Reduction Activities**

The Township performs several flood damage reduction activities including the following:

- The Township has sent notice to property owners in the Repetitive Loss Area on October 16, 2017. There are 163 properties in the Repetitive Loss Area. I have received several calls from residents that are interested in working with the Township in applying for Hazard Mitigation Grants to raise their homes above base flood elevation. Notices were sent to property owners that were affected by the change in the newly adopted FIRMs.
- Notices were sent to the individual Repetitive Loss and Substantial Damage properties to see if they wanted to apply for FEMA FMA grant to raise their homes. Out of the 36 properties that were notified four responded and applied for the grant. The Township partnered with several other Cape May County municipalities and the grant will be submitted to FEMA in late October 2017.
- Review the status of floodplain management planning in the township. This memo serves as meeting this requirement. Copies of this report have been reviewed by the Township Committee and sent to the NJDEP (NFIP Coordinating Office) and the local media and posted on the Township's website.
- The Township continues to maintain the Township's stormwater drainage system and we enforce stream dumping regulations.

These activities will be continued for next year.

### **Flood Preparedness Activities**

The Township does not have any programs for flood preparedness activities. Activities in this area include Flood Warning Program, Levee Safety and Dam Safety. Since there are no Levees in the Township this activity is not applicable. We do receive credit for Dam Safety, however this activity is implemented through the State of New Jersey. Credit is available under this item includes developing a flood threat recognition system and if that is implemented a second phase would be to become a Storm Ready Community as designated by the National Weather Service. On April 14, 2014 the Township approved the 2014 Severe Storm Plan as an amendment to the 2012 Emergency Operating Plan. We have prepared the application to become a Storm Ready Community however the National Weather Service is not accepting new applications because of budget cuts.

### **June 2016 All-Hazard Plan**

The following sections in the plan should be amended:

- Section 9.12.3.) Natural Hazard Event History Specific to the Township
  - Severe Storm, DR-4264, January 22, 2016, \$80,000 in damages including debris and snow removal.
- Section 9.12.13.) Mitigation Strategy and Prioritization – Status Updates to Table 9.12-12
  - TU-1a: Notices were sent to the individual Repetitive Loss and Substantial Damage properties to see if they wanted to apply for FEMA FMA grant to raise their homes. Out of the 36 properties that were notified four responded and applied for the grant. The Township partnered with several other Cape May County municipalities and the grant will be submitted to FEMA in late October 2017
  - TU-1b: No prospective homeowners at this time to relocate or purchase their home.
  - TU-2: We have recertified with the CRS program and have been increased to a Class 5, effective November 2017.
  - TU-3: We will continue to support the implementation and updating of the All-Hazard Plan.
  - TU-5: We will continue to develop, enhance and implement existing emergency plans.
  - TU-6: We will continue to maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.
  - TU-7: We will continue to support County-wide initiatives
  - TU-8: We will continue to monitor and conduct beach replenishment to maintain minimum beach profile for storm protection. Stockton Coastal Research Center continues to perform monitoring of beach and Corson's Inlet.
  - TU-9: Reconstruct Bayview Drive in Strathmere for drainage improvements. Survey plans are complete. The Township received a \$347,000 NJDOT Local Aid Grant in 2012& 2013. Construction completed in Spring 2015. Applying to continue this project for FY2018 NJDOT Local Aid Grant.
  - TU-11: The Township had not conducted a study to determine substandard bulkheads in Strathmere.
  - TU-12: Develop & implement projects based on TU-11.
  - TU-13: Install permanent protection to CR-619 (Commonwealth Ave) along Whale Beach. County lead project – no action.
  - TU-14: Upgrade existing revetment wall along CR-619 between Ocean City & Strathmere. County lead project – no action.
  - TU-15: Intersection of Roosevelt Blvd and Garden State Parkway. Raise Roadway which requires raising of Garden State Parkway bridge. County is designing drainage improvements.
  - TU-16: Elevate Roosevelt Blvd from Parkway to Ocean City. County lead project – no action.
  - TU-17: Elevate Tuckahoe Rd from Butter Road to Dennisville Rd. County Lead - Conceptual plan is done, awaiting funding.

- TU-18: Work with NJDOT to address flooding vulnerabilities on RT-50 at Cedar Swamp Creek.
- TU-19: Develop engineering solution to severe flooding at Rt-50 & Hope Corson Rd. The County has completed Phase I of this project and anticipates starting the next phase in 2018.
- TU-20: Address localized flooding on Stagecoach Rd & Evergreen Dr. The Township and County are working with a local mining operation to construct a drainage conveyance system and outfall into the mine's lake. County has completed project in Spring 2015.
- TU-21: Identify proper locations for and install water draw stations to increase fire-fighting capabilities. Lead County Chiefs Assoc. - No Action.
- TU-22: Install shore protection along Ocean Drive. County lead – no action.
- TU-25: The Township has not submitted to become a "Firewise" community.
- TU-26: Enhanced Wildfire Public Awareness and Education. No action.
- TU-27: Additional FEMA grant funding was secured to help defray cost of new generator for Strathmere Vol. Fire Co. Project should be constructed in 2018.
- TU-28: The Garden State Parkway should be elevated 1' above the base flood elevation.
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- TU-24: The tidal creeks that flow under the Garden State Parkway should be controlled with flood gates to prevent tidal flooding on the West side of the Garden State Parkway.
- TU-25: Facilities that are used for emergency storm shelters should have a design analysis to determine conformance with ASCE7, FEMA 55 & 361 and ICC500 – 2008.
- TU-31: Extend Seafliff Ave outfall. No Action.
- TU-32: Identify flood preparedness activities.
- TU-33: Develop a Program for Public Information. Upper Township worked with the Coastal Coalition and submitted a Program for Public Information to FEMA in June 2017.
- TU-34: Develop a flood warning system.
- TU-35: Develop a back-bay dune system. No action.
- TU-36: Implement recommendations from Getting to Resilience Report. No action.
- TU-37: Install reverse lane gates for Parkway entrance/exit. No Action.

Projects that should be added:

- TU-37: Extend living shoreline from Bayview Ave boat ramp extending South to restore coastal marsh. Upper Township has coordinated with Coastal Coalition and Nature Conservancy on developing this project.