



# CITY OF POQUOSON

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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June 9, 2023

To: Mr. Randy Wheeler  
City Manager

From: Kenneth Somerset  
Building Official / Floodplain Manager

Re: 2022 / 2023 CRS Report

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Following is a summary report of the CRS activities for July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023. This report is being posted on the Community Bulletin Board in the City Public Library at 500 City Hall Avenue and on the City Facebook page. I am requesting this be provided to Council in an information packet. As always, should your office receive any call, questions or concerns related to this report, please forward them to me. As in the past, providing this information to the public in these formats will serve as public notification for CRS.

- Staff attended Virginia Hampton Roads CRS Workgroup meetings held virtually and in person in July 2022, September 2022 and November 2022
- Kenneth Somerset participated in the following events:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| July 2022      | FEMA training class<br>VBCOA Region VII Flood Presentation                         |
| August 2022    | VFMA Awards Committee call<br>VFMA Education Committee call                        |
| September 2022 | FEMA Training class<br>VFMA Awards committee call<br>VFMA Education Committee call |
| October 2022   | Realtors flood event<br>VFMA Conference -Awards Committee                          |
| February 2023  | Staff CRS team meeting   |
| April 2023     | ASFPM All Conference Call  |
| May 2023       | ASFPM seminar  |
| May 2023       | FORERUNNER CRS demo program  |
| June 2023      | VADCR Flood Preparation Meeting  |

Elevation Certificate / Flood Presentation to Worley's  
Contracting  
Monthly VFMA Board of Directors calls

- Staff continues to collect elevation certificates from citizen for our historical records. This information is requested by citizens, contractors, realtors, insurance agents and mortgage companies.
- Staff recorded 90 interactions with citizens, contractors, insurance agents, realtors and interested parties regarding flooding, insurance related items, construction requirements, flood zone information, elevation certificate reviews, assisting in lowering flood insurance premiums, copies of elevation certificates, filing LOMAS, explaining the LOMA process, freeboard for homes and mechanical equipment, ICC funding for single family homes to be elevated, providing FIRMETTES and explaining Coastal A zone requirements. There were 31 phone calls, 9 emails, 23 office visits, 8 inspections, 11 letters written and 7 meetings. 1 LOMA was filed and approved.
- In May, 2023, staff held a FLOOD INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE in chambers. The topic was Flood Insurance. The meeting was open to the public with 7 citizens attending. Ms. Susan Eacho, State Farm Insurance agent and Ms. Shannon Levy insurance agent with Lindberg & Associates participated answering questions from citizens related to flood insurance, how RISK 2.0 is used to figure flood insurance rates and ways to lower cost. Ms. Eacho and Ms. Levy provided handouts to those in attendance, extras were placed in the information holders in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor hall at City Hall. FEMA videos on RISK 2.0 and flood insurance were shown during the event.
- In June, 2023, staff met in the City Library to discuss ways to provide information to the citizens related to emergencies, flood preparation pre-event, post event follow-up and lessons learned. Updating the flood information link on the City website, direct access to the information, providing additional articles in the Island Tide, posting information on the City News Bulletin Board in the City Library, adding information on the City cable channel, posting information on the City Facebook page were discussed and plans to implement were set in motion. Staff producing a series of short videos related to emergencies, flooding, flood venting, insurance and how to reduce rates, understanding elevation certificates to be run on the City Facebook and YouTube channels were discussed with plans to start the process in late fall, early winter.
- Ken Somerset coordinated with ASFPM and VFMA hosting the L-273 Managing Flood Development Thru the NFIP class in January 2023. Ms. Laura Nusz, City Environmental Compliance Officer and Mr. David Forrest, Senior Inspector attended the class.
- Ms. Richina White, Chief Bryant and Ken Somerset have developed an outline for the Disaster Assessment Teams to operate in case of an emergency. Members of the team were trained in CRISIS TRACK, the program used for damage assessment. iPads were purchased with a grant coordinated by Chief Bryant. These will be used in the field after an event providing real time direct updates to VDEM. Ms. White also coordinated the purchasing of highly visible safety vest, hardhats and other items for team members to have readily available. Areas for teams to cover where designated to provide inspection coverage of the entire City as promptly as possible.

Teams have been designated providing a designated drive associated with roads in the City, a member who is well versed in computers and loading information in Crisis Track, both members will have the ability to make accurate damage assessment opinions immediately. Ms. White will serve as the point of contact in City Hall.

- Thru a grant provided by Chief Bryant staff was able to have a coloring book directed to children teaching them about flooding and how to be prepared was produced. Ms. Hartley provided space in the library for distribution. They were extremely popular with citizens and provided an excellent way to create flood preparation in the family.
- Ms. Laura Nusz is coordinating environmental helpful tips and information with flood related mailings, articles and information for the public.
- Ms. Laura Nusz and Ken Somerset had a CRS review call with the designated CRS specialist in April 2023. The call provided an over of the program with a focus on realistic ways staff can work towards upgrading the City class from the current 8 to a 7.
- A variety of staff are providing information and assistance in preparation for the 5 year annual CRS audit, scheduled for August 2023.
- Kenneth Somerset remains on the VBCOA Board of Directors, continues to serve as the VFMA awards and Education Committee Chair.
- Kenneth Somerset was elected as ASFPM District III Director. The region consists of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C. and Delaware. The position is for a two-year term and is Board of Directors position.
- Kenneth Somerset is continuing to work with ASFPM and VADCR to provide additional training for staff and flood management staff across the Commonwealth.
- Ms. Laura Nusz is creating additional GIS map layers that will provide staff and citizens access to specific information. These layers include Repetitive Loss, LOMAS, flood zones, elevation certificates on file. Specific layers will have a very limited accessibility in accordance with Federal Privacy Laws.
- Mr. Ryan Bromwell continues to serve as the point person for citizen inquires and coordinating of meetings, mailings, advertising etc. He continues to work with various staff and departments to ensure things are completed on time.
- Staff is looking into grants and other ways to fund addition coloring information books for the public.