**Things to Know**

▬ You do not need to change your preparation for your next verification visit. Just get ready as you always do. As usual, your community’s coverage under the new edition will be phased in and your ISO/CRS Specialist will work with you to spot any different documentation or other changes that will apply to you in the future.

▬ The 2017 *Coordinator’s Manual* is expected to become effective in 2017, and will be available for download at www.CRSresources.org.

**Coordinator’s Manual Coming in 2017 (cont.)**

▬ Changes from previous editions will be marked with vertical bars *[like this]* in the margins of the pages of the 2017 *Coordinator’s Manual*. This will help you spot places that you may want to review, to see if the change affects your community.

**Four Things that will be Different**

▬ The CRS repetitive loss categories will be changing. Category C communities will be those with 50 or more repetitive loss properties (compared to 10 or more such properties under the current *Coordinator’s Manual*). With this change will come a requirement that repetitive loss areas be addressed either in Planning Step 5.c. for floodplain management plans (FMP) (Section 512.a under Activity 510 (Floodplain Management Planning)) or included in a repetitive loss area analysis (RLAA)(Section 512.c). There will be more explanation about this requirement in the next newsletter. For most Category C communities, attention to repetitive loss areas already meets the CRS requirements, but some communities may need to give more consideration to their repetitive loss areas as they develop or update their hazard mitigation plans or other plans.

▬ The three special flood-related hazards supplements (dealing with coastal erosion, tsunami hazards, and inland hazards) to the *Coordinator’s Manual* are being discontinued. Communities who map and/or manage areas subject to one of the seven CRS-credited special flood-related hazards will see that, in the 2017 edition, all the credit criteria, scoring details, and other needed information for receiving credit have been folded into the *Coordinator’s Manual* itself. This eliminates the need for the extra documents, and makes it easier to see how the special flood-related hazards credits relate to broader management techniques, i.e., mapping, higher regulatory standards, open space, and the like.

▬ With the 2017 *Coordinator’s Manual*, credit for being a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) is being retired and credits within other floodplain mapping elements are being increased to offset that loss. The majority of communities will see their points go up in other mapping elements. This shift will allow for fair credit to communities that, for one reason or another, do not or cannot avail themselves of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s CTP program.

▬ The freeboard prerequisite for becoming a CRS Class 4 community is being clarified. Between the 2007 and 2013 *Coordinator’s Manual*s, a revision to the prerequisites language led inadvertently to a misunderstanding, namely that freeboard was not required throughout a community’s entire Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), and in particular in unnumbered A Zones. Most Class 4 and better communities already were properly implementing the freeboard requirement, so going back to the original interpretation is not a burden. However, with new language clarifying that the one-foot freeboard requirement must be implemented throughout the SFHA, other communities will have time to update their ordinances, and require that a base flood elevation (BFE) be established at the time of development in unnumbered A Zones.

**Looking Ahead**

Another issue of the newsletter will cover more changes that will be coming in the 2017 *Coordinator’s Manual*. These will include a standard for incorporating sea level rise within several CRS elements, options for watershed management planning (WMP) credit for coastal communities, the elimination of channel debris removal (CDR) credit under Activity 540 (Drainage System Maintenance) as a prerequisite for other credit, and other improvements and clarifications.