

## Borrow our Water Table!

Our Water Tables have been a big hit with kids and grown-ups alike! You may have seen our table (or played with it) during the Annual Conference. The table belongs to IAFSM members and is available for all members to check out (free of charge) and bring to Public Works Open Houses, Scout meetings, 4-H meetings, school classrooms, etc. This new model offers a real opportunity to educate about the dangers and impact of unplanned development and human activity in the floodplain.



*IAFSM's Water Table in use at the Crystal Lake City Expo (left) and Mount Prospect Public Works Open House (right).*

Through the use of this model, students can explore the value of wetlands and retention ponds in flood management. They can construct their own levees and witness how stream flow is affected and can impact downstream communities during times of high runoff. They can simulate ice damming and other seasonal risks in the floodplain. They can measure runoff volume and construct their own hydrograph of stream flow over time. Most importantly, they will work as a team to find and test solutions to a variety of floodplain problems simulated by the model. An in-depth curriculum guide is available to introduce students to important tools in the management of our critical watershed resources. Curriculum is geared towards middle school and high school students, with adaptations for younger grades.

IAFSM has two models and keeps one in Springfield and the other in northeast Illinois. Contact Sarah at [iafsm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:iafsm@sbcglobal.net) to make arrangements to borrow the model.

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## CRS Users Group News

*~Mary Lou Kalsted, Village of Lisle*

The CRS Users Group is made up of CRS Coordinators and others who work with the Community Rating System in Illinois communities. The Community Rating System is a program that earns flood insurance discounts for residents by a community's actions toward exceeding minimum NFIP requirements and meeting three goals: reduce flood losses, facilitate accurate insurance rating, and promote awareness of flood insurance.

The IAFSM Community Rating System (CRS) Committee hosted the second meeting of this group on July 21, 2010 in Lisle. Scott Cofoid of Insurance Services Office made a presentation on the annual recertification process, and what documents and information to submit. Communities in the program need to submit their recertifications by October 1, 2010. The group discussed several activities that have been scored high. Some of the activities included benchmarks and drainage system maintenance. Cofoid also discussed the newest repetitive loss sheets that were recently sent to each community, as well as the State of Illinois' independent effort to update their repetitive loss list.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 28, 2010 at the City of Ottawa. The agenda will include a discussion of high scoring activities for drainage system maintenance and flood warning programs; a discussion of substantial damage/substantial improvement; and there will be a guest speaker, Paul Osman from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources/Office of Water Resources. Anyone not already receiving E-mails from the group who would be interested in attending can call Mary Lou Kalsted, CRS Committee chair, at (630) 271-4107 or [mkalsted@villageoflisle.org](mailto:mkalsted@villageoflisle.org).