

The Index

Georgia Department of Natural
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LINKS OF INTEREST:

www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com
www.FloodSmart.gov
www.FEMA.gov/Risk-Mapping-Assessment-Planning
<http://MSC.FEMA.gov>
www.FEMA.gov/BW12

The Index is a publication of GA DNR Floodplain Management; for editorial comments or questions, please contact Tom Shillock at 404-362-2606, or write to Tom.Shillock@dnr.state.ga.us. If you would like to join the mailing list, please contact Garrett Skinner at Garrett.Skinner@AtkinsGlobal.com.

GAFM Flood Risk Symposium Update

In March, GAFM and the ASPM Foundation co-hosted a flood risk symposium to gather leaders with the profession to identify ways that we can work together to improve the way that our communities are informed about flooding, flood risk and living within floodplains.

GAFM, GADNR, GEMA and ASFPM are working together now to identify action items that can be implemented within the state to serve local communities and bring multiple agencies together to address flood risk in Georgia. A report will be given at the GAFM 9th Annual Conference March 24-28, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Downtown.



GEORGIA FLOOD M.A.P. PROJECT UPDATE

GA DNR continues to expand the number of projects in its Georgia Flood M.A.P. program. The Upper Chattahoochee River Basin remapping is now complete and the new flood maps are effective (visit www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com to see the latest maps). GA DNR currently is working on updating the flood maps in several watershed areas. Below is an update of selected projects.

GEORGIA COASTAL COUNTIES MAPPING PROJECT (CCMP)

Post-Preliminary Update

Inland Riverine PMRs within the CCMP area now have completed appeal periods. Community and public meetings were held in the project area after distribution of the preliminary maps. As a result of strong local outreach support by community officials, the appeals period ran smoothly and our teams are moving forward with finalizing the flood studies. Planned effective dates for each PMR are listed in Table 1 below.

After the regulatory FIRMs and FIS report are finalized, the focus of this project will transition towards planning for mitigation and promoting risk awareness. As part of this phase of the project, Resilience Workshops will be held for each County. Local floodplain administrators will be contacted around the Letter of Final Determination (LFD) timeframe (see Table 1 below) to start planning efforts for this workshop. More information about this phase of the project is forthcoming.

Table 1. Letter of Final Determination (LFD) & Effective Dates

County	LFD Date	Effective Date
Bryan County	November 5, 2013	May 5, 2014
Chatham County	January 7, 2014	July 7, 2014
Charlton County	January 7, 2014	July 7, 2014
Effingham County	TBD*	TBD*
Liberty County	November 5, 2013	May 5, 2014
Long County	November 5, 2013	May 5, 2014

* Appeal Resolution in Progress

UPPER NORTHERN CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER AND ETOWAH WATERSHEDS

Project Discovery Meetings Held

In partnership with FEMA and GEMA, the GA DNR conducted the Discovery Process for communities within the Upper Chattahoochee (North) and Etowah Watersheds. This process began with online surveys to obtain basic needs documentation from communities followed by one-on-one telephone interviews to determine the detailed mapping needs of the community as well as mitigation efforts in place.

After information was obtained from communities, as well as from GA DNR, FEMA and GEMA, watershed-wide Discovery Meetings. In partnership with FEMA and GEMA, watershed-wide Discovery Meetings were held to further explain this new initiative to stakeholders while encouraging intercommunity dialogue and mitigation planning. Communities shared information about capital improvement projects within the watershed as well as major mitigation projects (both ongoing and planned) in addition to major flooding and mapping issues. Community participants included emergency managers, planners, engineers, zoning administrators, permitting officials, among other technical staff. Final Discovery Reports will be delivered to participating communities in early 2014.

GEORGIA DFIRM.COM RECEIVES UPDATE

The Georgia DNR will launch an updated GeorgiaDFIRM.com website before the end of the year. The updated website will:

- Be more user friendly;
- Streamline the “Find Your Flood Risk” process;
- Provide access to FIRM panels;
- Deliver Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds; and
- Make available tutorials and other education opportunities, as well as a training calendar.

In addition to the above mentioned updated website, Georgia DNR will also launch a YouTube channel and Facebook page. The YouTube channel will show educational and success story videos as well as how to become more resilient communities. The Facebook page has been designed to allow communities, citizens and governmental agencies to post success stories and pictures as well as provide education/updates on FEMA, mapping projects and storm activities.

Discovery Meetings Encourage Stronger Collaboration

Much like the previous scoping process, the Discovery process allows GA DNR and FEMA to determine prioritization when planning future flood study production. In addition, this process now promotes more awareness and collaboration among communities within their respective watersheds. GA DNR hopes that as Georgia Risk M.A.P. continues to evolve, so will the relationships and overall awareness of flood risk and mitigation opportunities.

BIGGERT-WATERS FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2012 (BW-12) UPDATE & RESOURCES

In the [last issue](#) of The Index, we highlighted the upcoming changes to the flood insurance program due to implementation of Section 100205, with the latest changes being implemented October 1, 2013. The two major sets of changes now implemented affect pre-FIRM buildings in most high-risk areas (and Zone D) with subsidized rates. Basically, secondary homes, non-residential buildings, and buildings with significant losses will see rate increases of 25% until they reach full-risk rates (i.e., rated using an Elevation Certificate). If a pre-FIRM building in high-risk areas (and Zone D) is sold, has a new policy written, or its existing policy lapses and is rewritten, the new policy must be written using full-risk rates.

Regarding the implementation of Section 100207 (the elimination of Grandfathering), FEMA has not released any rules or guidance at this time. They are still targeting for late 2014, at the earliest, for those changes to be implemented.

To help different stakeholders and property owners better understand these changes and their effects, FEMA has been posting useful fact sheets and links on their BW-12 website, www.FEMA.gov/BW12. Included are links to an [interactive map of NFIP subsidized policies by State and County](#), a series of short videos describing BW-12, starting with an [overview](#), and a new [BW-12 Quick Reference Guide](#). For people interested in wanting to know the detailed changes to the flood insurance program, there is also a link to the [Write Your Own Bulletins](#). For community officials and others that are receiving questions about Elevation Certificates (ECs) and need a quick refresher, visit the NFIP Training Contractor’s website (www.H2OPartnersUSA.com/NFIP-Training) and take their new [EC Made EZ online course](#) or watch their short series of [EC Made EZ](#) videos that walk the viewer through the different sections of the EC.



Georgia DNR would like to wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy holiday. Best wishes for the New Year.