

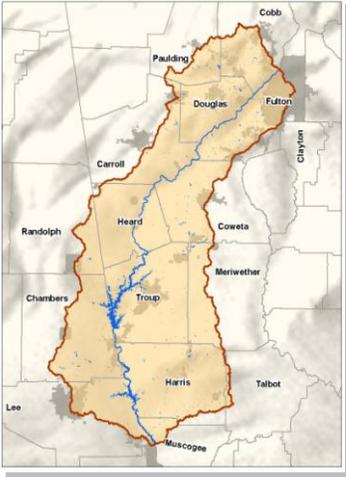


**Georgia Community Rating System (CRS) User's Group** first meeting was held on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Six communities participated along with one private firm in an informal, round table discussion around what neighboring communities are doing in the CRS Program and the challenges they face. Suggestions were made from other communities who have dealt with similar issues and how they had met those challenges. The Program's credit restructuring was also discussed.

The CRS User's Group continues to grow and other Georgia communities are encouraged to join. It has been reported that communities have improved their CRS rating a full class just by better understanding the ways they can improve their local program using knowledge gained at these meetings.

**The next meeting is being hosted by the City of Roswell on August 9 at 1:00 pm.** If you are interested or would like more information about the User's Group, contact Jeff Stanley (City of Griffin's CRS Coordinator/Floodplain Manager at [jstanley@cityofgriffin.com](mailto:jstanley@cityofgriffin.com)).

## GEORGIA DNR HOLDS FIRST DISCOVERY MEETINGS FOR THREE WATERSHEDS



This past spring, in partnership with FEMA, the GA DNR conducted the Discovery Process for communities within the Middle Chattahoochee, Upper Ocmulgee, Middle Savannah and Upper Savannah 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 GA DNR, 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 with one another 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 the fall.

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

## GEORGIA COASTAL COUNTIES MAPPING PROJECT UPDATE

The Inland Phase of the Georgia Coastal Counties Mapping Project (CCMP) includes portions of Effingham, Chatham, Bryan, Liberty, Long, and Charlton Counties (areas on map shown as orange) and consists primarily of riverine flood study updates. The Inland Phase of the project is the first area to be revised within these communities while coastal analysis is still being conducted. To prepare for preliminary issuance for this phase of the project, GA DNR in coordination with each County's Floodplain Administrator will be hosting Draft Map Review Meetings. The Draft Map Review Meeting has been added to the Georgia Flood M.A.P. Program providing stakeholders with the opportunity to review and comment on the draft engineering results in advance of FEMA's Preliminary Issuance of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report.

Letters of invitation are being sent to each of the communities' chief elected officials and floodplain administrators within the CCMP study area. Meeting information is provided below and will also be available on our website, [www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com](http://www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com).



### Draft Work Map Meetings

#### **Charlton County**

Date: July 11, 2012

Time: 10:30am - 12:00pm

Where: Charlton County Annex

#### **Effingham, Chatham, Bryan, Liberty, & Long Counties**

Date: July 12, 2012

Time: 10:00am - 11:30 am

Where: Savannah Civic Center

Work maps presenting the draft floodplain boundaries will be sent to the Floodplain Administrator/CEO in advance of their respective Draft Work Map meeting. The work maps will show the flood risk as portrayed on the effective FIRMs for your community overlaid with the draft floodplains reflecting your communities current flood risk. The comparison between the effective and revised floodplains will help you easily identify where major changes may be occurring and where additional outreach to your constituents may be needed. In addition to the work maps, a new digital product showing the changes since last FIRM will be available on the GA DNR website.