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Georgia Department of Natural Resources Floodplain Management Office Newsletter

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www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com

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LINKS OF INTEREST:

www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com

www.FloodSmart.gov

www.fema.gov/hazard/flood

<http://msc.fema.gov>

The Index is a publication of GA DNR Floodplain Management; for editorial comments or questions, please contact Tom Shillock at 404-675-1607, 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.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Newton County Insurance Agent & Lenders Workshop

Newton County will host an Insurance Agent & Lenders Workshop in downtown Covington that focuses on the flood insurance implications of their new flood maps. The workshop is scheduled for September 20, 2012 from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Newton County Administrative Office (1st Floor Conference Room) on 1113 Usher Street.

Ernie Smith, CFM, is the point of contact for the county and can be reached at (678) 625-1616 or esmith@co.newton.ga.us for more details.



COLLIS BROWN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Open Letter from Collis Brown

It is with great anticipation and a tinge of sadness that I announce my upcoming retirement. My last day with Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Environmental Protection Division will be September 28, 2012.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to interact and get to know so many wonderful people throughout Georgia and around the country.

On a professional level, I could not have asked for a more diverse, knowledgeable and personable grouping of co-workers and associates. I was never one to care so much about leaving "my" mark, but I have always wanted to participate and associate myself with people who made a difference. I truly believe that collectively over the years, with the help of all of you, I was able to do that.

On a personal level, the friendships made and memories shared have added an immeasurable enrichment to my life that will be cherished always.

Best wishes to each of you in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Collis O. Brown

Editor's Note: A Retirement Luncheon will be held on Tuesday September 25 from 11:00 - 2:00 at Michon's Smokehouse on 1583 Virginia Avenue in College Park. Those interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Veronica Briers at 404-362-2760 or veronica.briers@dnr.state.ga.us.



GEORGIA COASTAL COUNTIES MAPPING PROJECT (CCMP) UPDATE

Draft Map Review Meetings were held in July for the Inland Phase PMR counties which includes Bryan, Charlton, Chatham, Effingham, Liberty, and Long Counties. 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. Preliminary FIRMs and FIS are planned to be issued to these communities in late October. Following the Preliminary Issuance, GA DNR will be working with each County's Floodplain Administrator on scheduling the Preliminary DFIRM Community Coordination Meeting with local officials and the public Flood Risk Open Houses. These are tentatively planned to be held in early December. Letters of invitation for these meetings will be sent to each of the communities' chief elected officials and floodplain administrators within the CCMP study area.

Georgia Community Rating System (CRS) User's Group second meeting was held on August 9th. Four communities participated along with several private firms in an informal, round table discussion around what neighboring communities are doing in the CRS Program and the challenges they face. There was a good exchange of outreach activities that some of the communities have performed including real estate professional meetings, use of specialized mailers, and targeted mailers to flood prone areas.

The CRS User's Group continues to grow and other Georgia communities are encouraged to join.

The next meeting will be hosted by Brian Shoun (bshoun@dekalbcountyga.com) of DeKalb County on **November 15, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Pine Lake Clubhouse (400 Club House Dr.; Pine Lake GA 30072)**. 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.

Upper Chattahoochee River Basin Project

Post-Preliminary Update

Many counties within the UCRB project are nearing completion. Appeal periods have concluded for all UCRB Counties. We are now in the process of responding to outstanding appeals and preparing for the Letter of Final Determination (LFD). The target LFD and effective dates for each county as shown below in Table 1.

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 we will be conducting Resiliency Workshops for each County. The meetings are tentatively planned to be held during October and November. We will be contacting the local floodplain administrators around the Letter of Final Determination (LFD) timeframe to start planning efforts for this workshop.



Table 1. Target Letter of Final Determination & Effective Dates

COUNTY	LFD	EFFECTIVE DATE
Cobb County	September 4, 2012	March 4, 2013
Coweta County	August 6, 2012	February 6, 2013
DeKalb County	November 16, 2012	May 16, 2013
Douglas County	September 4, 2012	March 4, 2013
Forsyth County	September 4, 2012	March 4, 2013
Fulton County	November 16, 2012	May 16, 2013
Gwinnett County	September 4, 2012	March 4, 2013

Sweetwater Creek Flood Preparedness Event

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and National Weather Service (NWS) recently held a Sweetwater Creek Flood Preparedness Event on August 22, 2012 at Legion Park in Austell. Congressman David Scott, District 13 U.S. House of Representative, Cobb County Commission Chairman Tim Lee, City of Austell Mayor Joe Jenkins, and representatives from the USGS and NWS spoke at the ceremony. This event spotlighted a number of new flood awareness tools, including real-time **flood forecast inundation maps**, which

have been developed in the aftermath of the September 2009 Metro Atlanta floods to assist federal, state, and local officials as well as property owners in the Austell area along Sweetwater Creek in flood preparedness. This new online tool will help identify where the potential threat of floodwaters is greatest, enabling federal, state, and local officials to better plan for flood response, resource recovery, and assess evacuation routes at various flood levels before the rain falls. People wishing to access this interactive tool can find it at <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/FIM/Sweetwater>.

A tool to tie in the inundation maps to help communicate the financial consequences of flooding is FloodSmart's **Cost of Flooding tool**. View this tool and then download it by visiting www.FloodSmart.gov/CostofFlooding.