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## LINKS OF INTEREST:

[www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov)

[www.FEMA.gov/Risk-Mapping-Assessment-Planning](http://www.FEMA.gov/Risk-Mapping-Assessment-Planning)

<http://MSC.FEMA.gov>

[www.FEMA.gov/Flood-Insurance-Reform](http://www.FEMA.gov/Flood-Insurance-Reform)

The *Index* is a publication of GA DNR Floodplain Management; for editorial comments or questions, please contact Haydn Blaize at 404-463-4935 or [Haydn.Blaize@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Haydn.Blaize@dnr.ga.gov).

If you would like to join the mailing list, please contact Garrett Skinner at [Garrett.Skinner@AtkinsGlobal.com](mailto:Garrett.Skinner@AtkinsGlobal.com).

## Major Mapping Milestone Reached in Coastal Remapping Studies

A primary goal of [Georgia's Flood MAP program](#) is to promote community ownership of risk and in turn, encourage action to reduce risk. In 2010, GA DNR, kicked off its Coastal Counties Mapping Program which involved the reanalysis of riverine and coastal flood hazard areas within nine coastal counties. GA DNR, along with the Dewberry/Atkins team completed the Physical Map Revision (PMR) portion for the riverine section in 2013.

Concurrently with the riverine study, FEMA's PTS contractor BakerAECOM, performed the coastal analysis, which incorporates tidal surge and wave height analyses. On July 18-21, 2016, GA DNR; along with coastal PMR mapping contractor CDM Smith and FEMA; officially shared the preliminary coastal maps in Bryan, Chatham, Liberty and McIntosh counties with community officials at Preliminary DFIRM Community Coordination PDCC meetings and then with the public in Open Houses.

The PDCC meetings helped community officials understand the project scope and expected changes in the areas flood risks. Preliminary flood products were shared and feedback was encouraged. The community officials were provided a review of the project schedule and what would be expected of the community during the remaining phases, including recognizing the new maps in their floodplain management ordinances.

The Open Houses provided the public the opportunity to learn more about the mapping project and look up their property to see how their flood risk may have changed. If it did change, they learned about how the lender requirements may have changed as well as insurance costs. Cost-saving rating options such as the [Newly Mapped procedure](#) were discussed with the impacted residents and business owners.

The nine counties' coastal maps are targeted to become effective in the summer of 2018, as they still need to go through the 90-day public comment period, resolve any appeals and comments, and then go through the 6-month compliance period after the Letter of Final Determination is issued.

## GA DNR Provides Hurricane Matthew Support

On September 28, a tropical depression, which quickly grew to a Category 5 storm, initially became a named storm, Matthew. Ten days later, after devastating parts of Haiti and hammering the Bahamas, it then ran up along the coasts of Florida and Georgia before officially making U.S. landfall near McClellanville, South Carolina on October 8 as a Category 1 hurricane. Georgia coastline experienced significant storm surge, including just under 8 feet at Ft. Pulaski between Savannah and Tybee Island (which experienced wind gusts over 95 mph) and nearly 10 inches of rain in Glynn County.

To facilitate FEMA's response to impacted the coastal communities, GA DNR's Floodplain Management Unit worked over the weekend of October 8<sup>th</sup> with its mapping contractors (CDM Smith and Dewberry/Atkins) and established a dedicated

Electronic Link for FEMA to access geospatial data on the flood depth grids and changes proposed to the currently effective flood risk maps for the coastal communities.

In addition, GA DNR assisted FEMA with contacting officials within the 70 communities in the 19 declared counties to ascertain disaster assistance needs in addressing over 1000 flood damage claims. This was coordinated through the Joint Field Office established in Savannah. Training in Substantial Damage Estimation was also presented to local community officials on November 10, 2016. As of mid-November, 1,600+ Individual Assistance (IA) applications have been approved for more than \$5 million in grants from FEMA's IA program. And nearly \$3.6 million in low-interest disaster loans to 158 homeowners, renters and businesses has been approved by the Small Business Administration. The deadline to register for disaster assistance is December 16, 2016.

For more information on post-Hurricane Matthew recovery, visit [GEMA's](#) and [FEMA's](#) Hurricane Matthew webpages.

## Detailed LiDAR Footprint Expands in 2017

GA DNR, with funding from FEMA, anticipates expanding the Quality Level 2 LiDAR footprint in Georgia in 2017. Through collaboration with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and potential participation in the USGS 3-Dimensional Digital Elevation Program (3DEP) Grant, it is proposed to acquire LiDAR in the Middle Chattahoochee-Walter F and Lower Flint watersheds. This more detailed information will be helpful in further refining the hydraulic modeling and flood risks in those areas.

## Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP (L-273) Course Offering

GA DNR is sponsoring the instruction of the L-273 course, which is designed for local officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinances as well as others involved in floodplain management activities. The course focuses on the NFIP, concepts of floodplain management, the Flood Insurance Study and flood map, effective administration of the local flood ordinance and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance. Both FEMA and GA DNR staff will serve as instructors. It will be held **January 23-26, 2017 (8:30-5:00)** at the Georgia Sea Grant Center/Marine Extension on 715 Bay Street in Brunswick. Email your registration form to [Thomas.Tkacs@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Thomas.Tkacs@dnr.ga.gov), and put L-273 in the Subject Line; deadline to register is **January 17, 2017**. Call 404-651-8478 with any questions.

Note that a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam will be administered by ASFPM on January 17<sup>th</sup> (8:30-11:30). The exam fee is \$100 for ASFPM members and \$375 for non-members. CFM Exam application is due January 13<sup>th</sup>. Forms for the exam and to join the ASFPM are available at [www.Floods.org](http://www.Floods.org). Send all ASFPM forms and fees directly to ASFPM.

## New Roles – New Faces at GA DNR Floodplain Unit

With the retirement of Tom Shillock, **Haydn Blaize** has been appointed as the Program Manager for the Floodplain Unit, including assignment as State NFIP Coordinator. Haydn is a graduate civil engineer with a master's degree in environmental engineering from New York University Polytechnic School of Engineering. Haydn has over 30 years of experience in the design, installation, operation and maintenance of infrastructure, including water, sewer and storm water management systems. Many of you would have interacted with Haydn, as an Environmental Engineer in the Floodplain Unit since November 2013.

Prior to joining GA DNR, Haydn served as Water Services Systems Manager and Deputy Director for Fulton County in Metropolitan Atlanta, in addition to working in the private sector as a consultant/contractor for several years. Before working in Atlanta, Haydn was a Project Officer for a multi-national development agency, working in several countries where he was responsible for the implementation of complex environment and infrastructure projects financed by international lending agencies such as the Caribbean Development Bank, European Economic Commission and World Bank.

The Floodplain Unit is excited to welcome **Joseph Martinenza** P.E., who has joined the Unit as an Environmental Engineer. Joe is a graduate of Penn State University where he majored in Water Resources/Environmental Engineering. Joe brings nearly 20 years of experience in the field, having worked at senior levels in consulting on floodplain mapping projects throughout the United States including Georgia. Immediately prior to joining GA DNR, Joe worked with the engineering consulting firm, Atkins.

The Georgia Association of Floodplain Managers has extended a call for presentations for its 11<sup>th</sup> annual conference to be held March 23-23, 2017 at the Legacy Lodge & Conference Center, Lake Lanier Islands. Please [click here](#) for more details regarding conference presentations.