



October 3, 2016

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**Subject: Flood Mitigation Plan, Annual Progress Report Documentation**

**Dear Ms. Hopfensperger:**

As required by Section 510, Floodplain Management Planning of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) - Community Rating System (CRS), Coordinator's Manual, we are submitting our Flood Mitigation Plan, Annual Progress Report for our Flood Mitigation Plan activities for City of Savannah, GA. This report, which was acknowledged by the City Manager contains ongoing program activities as well as program improvements, updates to our training activities, short term drainage projects and, long term structural drainage projects. Documentation of our continued efforts relative to public outreach campaigns is included.

The Annual Recertification Report was prepared partly through the efforts of the Flood Mitigation Planning Committee (FMPC) and the Coastal Georgia CRS Users Group (Group). Other components for the report were completed by the Floodplain Administrator with assistance from staff members of the City of Savannah (COS) Development Service Department of Engineering, Stormwater Department, Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), Public Information Office (PIO), the Unincorporated Chatham County (UCC), and the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC). The FMPC meetings were coordinated and scheduled by the Floodplain Administrator with assistance from the City of Savannah's (COS) Floodplain Administrator. The FMPC and the CRS Users Group will be referred to as the Group moving forward in this report. The Group held discussions of various new and current CRS activities. Generally, the most popular discussion topics involve activities where most participating communities presently receive CRS credit. Specific topics of discussion were selected by the Group relative to their communities' ongoing yearly CRS activities and upcoming annual FEMA Re-certification by Insurance Service Offices (ISO). During the previous twelve months of 2015/2016, the Group convened on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, November 15<sup>th</sup>, January 19<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup>, and August 4<sup>th</sup> to review CRS Activities so that each community could maintain and/or improve their respective CRS Class Ratings. More importantly, the Group initiated various new activities to better protect people and property from potential flood damages as stated in our current Flood Mitigation Plan, dated August 6, 2015. The activities were discussed

at length during the Group meetings. As a direct result of these meetings and efforts, COS acquired sufficient CRS points to qualify for a CRS Class 5 community. CRS Class 5 communities receive a 25% flood insurance discount off insurance premiums for those homes and businesses located in FEMA's Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) or areas designated as A, AE or VE flood zones. As a result of these Group meetings, six Chatham County municipalities and a few other coastal communities along the 100 miles stretch of the Georgia Coast either enhanced their individual CRS point score, improved a CRS Class and/or gained a better understanding of the CRS Coordinator's Manual.

The general details of our yearly floodplain management progress and activities are mentioned in the following bullets. The bullets also provide a brief description of scheduled events attended and other milestones accomplished thus far this year. For the purpose of this document, a calendar year spans August 31, 2015 through August 30, 2016. The final two bullets contain a brief description of the Group's meetings and accomplishments as well as detailed information on our short term and long term drainage improvement projects. The projects outlined are referenced in our Flood Mitigation Plan, dated August 6, 2015, and are available for review upon request. They are as follows:

- August 06, 2015 : City Council approved the resolution for the CRS Floodplain Mitigation Plan (FMP) and Repetitive Loss Area Analysis (RLAA) plans.
- August 20, 2015: Savannah hosted the multi county FEMA NFIP community Draft Map Review Meeting at the Savannah Civic Center. Representatives from FEMA and Georgia EPD presented the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) to the local stakeholders for review and comments.
- August 31, 2015 An East Coast Greenway Project meeting convened in the Arthur Mendoza Conference Room of the MPC. The Greenway Project Team met from 11:30 AM until approximately 1:30 PM. There were 12 project members present who included representatives from the MPC, the Department of Engineering (DOE) and a local area private consulting engineering firm. The objective of the Greenway Project is to establish and develop a trail system, linking many of the major cities along the Eastern Seaboard between Canada and Key West. Our local Project Team is tasked with identifying and establishing specific greenway projects to connect with the National effort. Although the meeting included discussions that addressed funding, suitable sites worthy of consideration and development and implementation, the primary focus of this meeting was to discuss canal descriptions and review canal maps, complete a priority matrix and conduct category discussions through a canal prioritization exercise. The COS Staff were present to offer suggestions relating to Open Space credit and natural and beneficial floodplain function. Additional meetings are TBA at later dates. A copy of the meeting agenda and sign-in sheet can be provided upon request

- September 2, 2015 The Group convened at the Coastal Regional Commission (CRC) Building located at 1181 Coastal Drive SW, Darien, Georgia, 31305. The meeting was hosted by Kelly Spratt and Madeleine Russell of the University of Georgia, Georgia Sea Grant Association. The meeting included representatives from Camden, Glynn, McIntosh, Liberty, Bryan Effingham and Chatham Counties with many of the municipalities present. The meeting convened at 1:30 with Sue Hopfensperger, Certified Floodplain Manager, (CFM) with ISO providing guidance with preparing community recertification packets. During her presentation she answered questions and offered comments and suggestions regarding material content, packet preparation and submittal. Other topics discussed during the meeting, included but was not limited to, the Coastal Georgia CRS Users Group Logo, the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management (GAFM) Spring Conference, discussion about substantial improvement/damage criteria, discussion about garages, vent opening requirement and the design base flood elevation (DBFE), performing reviews of the new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMS), hosting speakers and discussion topics for future meetings, Outreach Products and publications, increasing community membership and participation and future meeting dates and locations. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM. The meeting Agenda and Meeting Minutes contain additional information. Both documents, the sign-in sheet and photographs can be provided upon request.
- September 10, 2015 A meeting was conducted today to address CRS Activity 610, Flood Warning Procedures and Response Plan. The meeting was hosted by CEMA and held in their office at 124 Bull Street, Suite 140, Savannah, Georgia 31401. The meeting started at 9:00 AM with 10 persons present representing Thunderbolt, Tybee Island, Garden City, Bloomingdale, Savannah, Chatham County and two private consulting firms. The meeting lasted approximately an hour and a half. CEMA's Dustin Hetzel conducted the meeting by performing a detailed review of the Flood Incident Management manual. A brief listing of the topics covered included Flood Threat Recognition System, Critical Facilities Planning, StormReady Community, Community Flood Hazard Description, Community Flood Maps, Flood Warning and Response Plan, Outreach Projects, Exercise and Evaluations, Flood Threat Recognition System, Emergency Warning Dissemination, Warning System Testing, Siren Maps, Flood Response Operations and the Flood Response Plan, and Critical Facilities Restoration Priorities. Today's meeting satisfies the criteria to maintain CRS credit under Activity 610, Flood Warning. The outcome of the meeting is outlined in the meeting minutes and can be submitted for review upon request.
- October 15, 2015 The Ward 3-dimensional Floodplain Simulation Model was used to present flooding conditions to students at Heard Elementary School. The Flood Model is

owned by Savannah State University and is loaned to local floodplain administrators to demonstrate various flooding conditions of a designed floodplain during presentations. It can be adapted to represent what happens during flooding conditions where wetlands areas are present and when the wetlands are replaced by industry and development. There were 4 showings to first and second grade students between the hours of 1:00 PM and 3:30 PM. Each of the 4 groups contained approximately 18 students. The floodplain modelers included Chris Rains, Tom McDonald and Michael Blakely. This activity serves as an Additional OPC Activity 330 in the CRS Coordinator's Manual. Photographs of the event can be provided upon request.

- October 25, 2015 The Fall 2015 Outreach Project to the Community OPC was distributed via the Sunday Edition of the Savannah Morning News. The OPC is an annual joint effort between the COS, the MPC and UCC. The OPC included subject matter addressing flood insurance, storm water drainage, floodplain management, no adverse impact, elevation certificates and permitting requirements, financial assistance, the CRS program and mapping. In addition to distribution of the flyer, the Savannah Morning News also printed and assisted with editing the document. The Savannah Morning News utilizes the Savannah Penny Saver and Savannah Tribune media organizations to boost circulation to satisfy FEMA's 95 percent household and business penetration requirement. A minimum household and business penetration of 90 percent is required by FEMA. On average, areas targeted include just fewer than 90,000 residents and businesses. Copies of the OPC and OPF will be provided upon request.
- November 5, 2015 Mr. Ben Farmer of Ben Farmer Realty organized a technical training session for local area Realtors. Mr. Farmer serves as the V.P. of Professional Development of the Savannah Area Board of Realtors (SABOR). Through his connections, he was able to organize a team of local Realtors for this training. The goal of the training session was to expose local area realtors to the changes in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to provide exposure regarding the level of services provided by local Floodplain Administrators. The technical training session included topics on Flood Insurance Reform which was delivered by Jeffery Brady, Associate in National Flood Insurance, (ANFI) with Mickey Roundtree Insurance Agency. Tom McDonald, CFM with the COS, and Michael Blakely, CFM with UCC, presented the CRS Program regarding how the COS and UCC are involved in the program. Additional topics discussed included a brief review of the local FDPO, No Adverse Impact and the importance and significance of elevation certificates. To aid with the presentation, a variety of hand-outs consisting of flyers, brochures and pamphlets were provided to the Realtors. There were 31 realtors and 1 architect present. The training session lasted just over 3 hours. Photographs of the event and a copy of the sign-in sheet can be made available upon request. This activity serves as an Additional OPC Activity (CRS 330) in the CRS

Coordinator's Manual. Photographs of the event can be provided upon request.

- November 17, 2015 A meeting was hosted by Kelly Spratt and Madeleine Russell of the University of Georgia, Georgia Sea Grant Program and held at the CRC Building in Darien, Georgia. The primary focus of the meeting was to receive a Power Point Presentation on the High Water Mark Program by FEMA. Ms. Lynne Keating, CFM with FEMA Region IV provided a web viewer during the meeting which provided detailed the program. Today's meeting included 13 attendees which represented coastal communities that span from the borders of South Carolina to Florida. The 45-minute webinar began at 1:00 PM EST and included with discussion regarding CRS points and general questions and answers. Other topics discussed included a short presentation by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, developing a storm water master plan, outreach projects, and elevation certificates. The sign-in sheet contains detailed information about the participants. There are also photographs which can be provided upon request.
- November 18, 2015 Various DOE staff members participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual GIS Day, Savannah 2015. The event was held in the Student Union Building on the campus of Savannah State University from 9 AM until 4 PM. This event serves as an Additional OPA to the community to satisfy the CRS requirement of Activity 330 in the CRS Coordinator's Manual. During this event parents, grade school students and teachers were made aware of the usefulness of Geographic Information System (GIS) programs and the usefulness of these tools in floodplain mapping. Recalling and displaying flood damage information was one of many useful applications demonstrated. As part of the event the UCC and COS maned booths that included the XBOX sand modeling end the Wards 3D Model. More than 440 sutdents visited the exhibit hall.
- December 5, and 2015 A 11X17 Outreach was mailed and delivered to structures in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), previously identifies as Outreach Project to the Floodplain (OPF), The 2015 OPF was developed through a combined effort from the MPC, COS and UCC. The OPF, like to OPC, include subject matter addressing flood insurance, storm water drainage, floodplain management, no adverse impact, elevation certificates and permitting requirements, the CRS program and mapping. The OPF specifically targets the floodplain areas within the community. Addresses within the floodplain areas are derived using GIS and the Chatham County Board of Assessors Property Record Cards. This year's publication contained additional but limited information about the remaining communities within Chatham County. Printing and distribution of the document was completed by the Envelopes and Forms. A minimum household and business penetration of 90 percent is required by FEMA. On average, areas targeted include more than 26,000 residents and businesses. This Activity satisfies the requirements of Activity 330 of the CRS Coordinator's Manual. Draft copies of the OPC and OPF will be provided upon request. Final copies of the outreach projects can be

made available once distributed to the community and floodplain areas.

- December 7-10, 2015 The Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch and FEMA sponsored “Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program, (L-273). The weeklong class was held at the University of Georgia Marine Extension and Sea Grant College at 715, Bay Street, Brunswick, Georgia 30120. The class was taught by both FEMA and Georgia floodplain management staff. The course was designed for local officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinances as well as others involved in floodplain management activities. Topics covered included the NFIP program, effective administration of the local flood ordinance and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance. The Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) Exam was offered on Friday, December 11, 2015. There were 17 participants to sign up for class L-273 and 12 signed up to take the CFM Exam. This Activity satisfies the requirements of Activity 430 of the CRS Coordinator’s Manual.
- December 17, 2015 the final Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan planning meeting conducted by CEMA from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Garden City, City Hall, Savannah, Georgia. Attendees included 39 Chatham County municipal representatives from various agencies and members of the general public. The meeting lasted approximately an hour and a half. The meeting was hosted by Mrs. Margaret Walton, CFM, with ATKINS North America, Inc. The meeting forum consisted of creating the framework for risk-based decision making to reduce damages to lives, property, and the economy from future disasters. The sign-in sheet for this meeting can be provided upon request.
- January 6, 2016 Chatham County began 2016 by testing the early Warning Siren System. On the first Wednesday of each month, CEMA performs a test of the early Warning Siren System. If severe weather is imminent on the first Wednesday, the test is postponed to a later date. This system consists of a series of sirens strategically placed throughout the County to warn citizens and visitors of pending dangers from natural or manmade events. Information about the early Warning Siren System is published in a variety of media including the County Connection supplement newspaper, the CEMA Signal and in the County’s OPC and OPF outreach pamphlets and mailers that are delivered to households and businesses. Pamphlets, brochures and flyers are also handed out during public events, such as the Earth Day celebration and the Annual Home Depot Hurricane Expo. Information about the early Warning Siren System is also broadcasted on Channel 16, the County Government channel, Chatham County social media venues and is announced on local public television stations. This Activity satisfies the requirements of Activity 610 of the CRS Coordinator’s Manual. Supporting documentation of this event can be provided upon request.

As partners with Chatham County's Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) Agreement with FEMA, the State of Georgia through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Environmental Protection Division (EPD) accepted responsibility for the updates to FEMA Flood Study projects for the State of Georgia. In 2009, FEMA initiated a new program called Risk MAP (Mapping, Assessment and Planning), which will, through collaboration with Federal, State, and Local entities, deliver quality flood hazard data designed to increase public awareness of flood risk and lead to action that reduces risk to life and property. During the upcoming months COS will continue the effort with FEMA's Risk MAP project. The COS staff is working directly with FEMA staff and its contractors during the development of the maps to ensure accuracy. While efforts continue with the project, the final version of the proposed DFIRM is expected to be available for publication during May of 2017. The final map version is expected to become effective during the fall of 2017. Additional information can be obtained by visiting <http://georgiadfirm.com/> As specific dates become available, FEMA will post notification within the local newspaper to alert the public of dates, times and locations the preliminary maps can be reviewed. This Activity satisfies the requirements of Activity 410 of the CRS Coordinator's Manual.

- January 6, 2016: CEMA hosted an Advisory Committee for the Emergency Management Program (EMPAC). The event was held at the Crosswinds Golf Club located at 232 James B. Blackburn Drive, Savannah, Georgia 31408. The meeting was collaboration between local municipal and county governments and other program stakeholders to serve on the EMPAC. The EMPAC is designed to offer guidance and feedback on the status, delivery and effectiveness of the county-wide EMPAC regarding preparedness, recovery and mitigation initiatives. It is hoped the coordination of the community-wide EMPAC will create a resilient community and provide confidence in government responsibility. Building a holistic approach to preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation principals begin with executed leadership at each government promoting a top-down organizational practice. The EMPAC will meet on the first Thursday of every three months throughout the calendar year. Information regarding the following three meetings for the year can be obtained by contacting CEMA or the DOE.
- January 11, 2016 : The final Greenway Steering Committee Meeting was held today in the DOE Conference Room. The primary focus of today's meeting was to review and discuss the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Canal Greenway Maintenance manual. Attending the meeting were representatives from Thunderbolt, Tybee Island, Garden City, the City of Savannah and Chatham County. The meeting was planned and organized by the Ecological Planning Group via a grant from the Department of Natural Resources from the Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The meeting began at 10:00 AM and lasted for approximately one and

one half hours. The final grant completion date is March 31, 2016. Additional information can be made available upon request.

- January 12, 2016 A training session was hosted for the Homebuilders Association (HBA) of Savannah. The purpose of the training was educate the local area homebuilders and surveyors of the requirements of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances (FDPO) for the COS and UCC. More than 90 attendees were present for the training. The training was conducted by Tom McDonald and Michael Blakely. Some of the topics covered included backfill material in the SFHA, no petition walls or separate rooms in the enclosure area, hydrostatic venting, The 50% Rule, job-site trailers, swimming pools, elevators in the SFHA, and Coastal A-Zones to name a few. The training session lasted just over 3 hours. Photographs of the event can be provided upon request.
- January 19, 2016 The Group convened for the first time in 2016 at the COS's Permitting office at 5515 Abercorn Street, Savannah Georgia. During the approximately 1 and a half long meeting, several topics were covered including but not limited to the development of a storm water master plan, OPC and OPF flyers, floodplain management training (L273), elevation certificate training, and the Floodplain Management Plan vs CEMA's All Hazard Plan to name a few. There were 12 members in attendance from various governmental agencies with some stakeholders present. Additional information can be found in the meeting minutes and from photographs taken. These documents can be provided upon request.
- January 29-31, 2016 The Low Country Home and Garden Show was held at the International Trade Center on Hutchinson Island, in Savannah, Georgia. This venue provided an opportunity for tradesmen and homeowners to exchange ideas and strike business deals. It also provided an excellent opportunity to display floodplain management literature and information. Several pamphlets, flyers and brochures were made available to the locals which addressed flood insurance, Natural and Beneficial Function, how to protect our property before, during and after a flood event to name a few. This activity serves as an Additional OPC under 330 in CRS.
- February 25, 2016: COS staff participated in a science fair at Heard Elementary School in Savannah, Georgia. This venue, "Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Night" provided an excellent opportunity to mentor young students to introduce them to the various aspects and benefits of floodplain management. Through the visual aids of the Ward's 3-D Flood Model, the students were able to witness various storm events in real-time with commentary provided by Tom McDonald and Michael Blakely. Large numbers of pre-k through 5<sup>th</sup> graders were tasked with explaining the flooding effects as the design of the flood model changed. The demonstrations lasted from 5:30 PM until 7:30 PM. It is estimated that more than 75

students and parents witnessed the flood model in action. Photographs can be provided upon request.

- March 21-24, 2016 Floodplain Administrator/CRS Program Manager participated in the tenth Annual GAFM Conference. This year's conference was held at Lake Lanier Island, Georgia. COS's Floodplain Administrator/CRS Program Manager was voted to remain Coastal Committee Chair for two more years. The conference spanned four days and used the theme, "Resiliency: Looking Back for the Future." Some of the topics covered during the conference included Flood Insurance Options, Auditing Elevation Certificates, Stream Restoration, Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains, FEMA's Coastal Risk MAP Study for Georgia, CRS Program, No-Adverse Impacts (NAI), Substantial Damage Estimator, various technical field tips, FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and the Certified Floodplain Managers refresher course followed by the CFM exam at the end of the conference.

During the conference, a Regional "Coastal" Meeting was held. The meeting consisted of representatives from Chatham County, COS, and surrounding jurisdictions to Camden County with community's in-between. The forum included floodplain management discussion at the local level. There were 9 floodplain managers in attendance. A copy of the sign-in sheet can be provided upon request.

- April 4, 2016 The Group convened for a CRS Planning Work Shop webinar which was conducted and hosted by Ms. Sherry Harper, CFM with ISO. The two-hour webinar began at 10:00 AM EDST and included discussion regarding CRS points that communities may be missing and opportunities not taken advantage of. The webinar included participants from across the nation.
- April 16, 2016 COS's Floodplain Administrator/CRS Program Manager Tom McDonald manned a booth during Earth Day 2016, at Forsyth Park, Savannah, Georgia. The objective was to engage the event attendees to educate and to increase community flood awareness. This activity was conducted in a joint effort with Mr. Michael Blakely, UCC's Floodplain Administrator. Question and answer sessions were held throughout the day while participants were provided flood protection and flood insurance related flyers, brochures and pamphlets. This activity qualifies as an OPC and served to satisfy Activity 330 in the CRS Coordinator's Manual. Photographs of this event will be provided upon request.
- April 19, 2016 CEMA conducted its annual Chatham County Hurricane Conference at the Savannah Trade and Convention Center, Hutchinson Island, Georgia. This year's conference theme was "*Whole Community Emergency Management: You can't do it by your Selfie!*" The conference included a day of workshops and speakers between the

hours of 8:30 AM and 4:45 PM. A sampling of the topics included Public Assistance/Damage Assessment, Hurricane Impact Analysis, Natural Gas During a Disaster and Hurricane Evacuation Decision Making. Attendees numbered over 300 and included first responders and representatives from local, State and Federal government agencies, private organizations and interested stakeholders. Copies of the conference guide *Workshops at a Glance* and conference registration form can be provided upon request.

- April 20, 2016 A meeting was conducted between the COS and UCC to address some on-going concerns associated with floodplain management language in the FDPO for both communities. Attending the meeting was Julie McLean, Jian Fei, Roger Raines, and Tom McDonald with the COS and Suzanne Cooler, Jill Growe, Nick Milionis, Kevin Hayes, Bill Nicholson, Leon Davenport and Michael Blakely with UCC. Topics discussed included, but were not limited to, fill material within the SFHA, a letter addressed to UCC from the Savannah Homebuilders Association, developing a unified FDPO, the impact and limits of the Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA) designations regarding permitting activities relative to the new DFIRM map adoption process, developing a watershed masterplan and discussion regarding instituting a county-wide 2-foot freeboard requirement. Both municipalities agreed to work together to address the fore mentioned topics. A meeting agenda prepared by Tom McDonald can be provided upon request.
- May 16-19, 2016 The COS and UCC hosted FEMA “L-278 Floodplain Management through the CRS Program” training class. The class was held in the Simms Room of the Savannah Civic Center, 310 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Ga. 30401. There were 35 registered students for the class from various government agencies, institutions and organizations. Class instructors included Molly O’Toole, Amanda Gowans and French Wetmore, with supporting commentary by Sue Hopfensperger. The course was conducted using the latest version of the CRS Coordinators Manual which has expiration date of December 31, 2016.
- May 21, 2016 COS participated in the annual Home Depot Hurricane Expo. This years’ event was held in the parking lot of Store #179 located at 190 Pooler Parkway, Pooler, Georgia 31322. The Hurricane Expo was hosted by the State Insurance Commissioner, Ralph T. Hudgens. The event is coordinated with participation from various state and local agencies, private insurance agencies and governmental departments. The COS Floodplain Administrator manned a booth which displayed a county-wide FIRM and provided various flyers, brochures and pictures to the attendees. During the Expo, Mr. McDonald and Mr. Blakely were asked to speak during a special session to address the crowd about flood insurance, general floodplain management and the specific services we provide to the community. This speaking session serves as an OPC. The event was

held between the hours of 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM. The Hurricane Expo was a huge success with a large gathering of the general public participating. This event serves as to satisfy the requirements of Activity 310 of the CRS Coordinator's Manual. Photographs of the event can be presented upon request.

June 06, 2015: Co Instructor using the Floodplain Model at the Savannah Engineering Academy camp. Savannah Engineering Academy fosters engineering development through hands-on engagement, academic guidance, and professional interaction. Through structured programs and enrichment opportunities, The Savannah Engineering Academy strives to cultivate future generations of engineers from our local community. Used the wards floodplain simulator. There were 3 showings to junior and senior grade students between the hours of 1:00 PM and 4:30 PM. Each of the 3 groups contained approximately 12 students. The floodplain modelers included Steven Wohlfeil, PC of HGB a local engineering firm, Tom McDonald. This activity serves as an Additional OPC Activity 330 in the CRS Coordinator's Manual. Photographs of the event can be provided upon

- June 19-24, 2016 COS staff attended the 40<sup>th</sup> ASFPM National Conference. The conference was held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This year's theme was "Great Lakes – Grand Partners." A principal reason for attending the National Conference is to maintain the required continuing education units (CEU's) to remain in good standing as an ASFPM, CFM. During the conference, the UCC and COS CRS Program Manager met with various FEMA Region IV representatives and Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Floodplain Management staffers to review recently approved policy changes in floodplain management.
- July 19, 2016 FEMA's Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (MAP) Project for Chatham County is entering the final stages. The Preliminary DFIRM Community Coordination (PDCC) Meeting was held on Savannah Technical College's main campus within Eckburg Auditorium located at 5717 White Bluff Road, Savannah, GA 31405. The Preliminary DFIRMs were displayed. The days meeting was conducted in two sessions. The initial session, held between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM, was limited to local governmental staff and elected officials. This was a formal presentation made by FEMA officials and contractors to explain the maps and answer any questions. The second session was held between 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM for the general public. Following the PDCC meeting, there is a 90 day appeal period at which time all objections to the maps must be made to FEMA. Following that period, there is a 6-month Ordinance compliance period where all communities must amend their FDPO to comply with the criteria of the new maps. It is following this 6-month compliance period that communities must adopt the new maps. The maps are anticipated to become effective during the fall of 2017. The Preliminary DFIRM's can be viewed by visiting

<http://georgiadfirm.com/> All in attendance were encouraged to engage in the activities and ask questions relative to the maps and the mapping process.

- July 19, 2016 A special meeting was held to address the HBA concerns with local, State and Federal officials regarding the language in the current FDPO. The meeting was called by Chairman Al Scott and was held between 3:30 PM and 4:30 PM. Issues presented will follow with further discussion. COS Tom McDonald was in attendances.
- July 30, 2016: Participated in Paradise Park Neighborhood Information Fair. Answering floodplain questions and utilizing the wards #D floodplain simulation model.
- August 24: Presenter at the 11 Annual Georgia Environmental Conference concerning the new Preliminary FIRM. How Savannah notified property owners and affects the new maps will change flood insurance rates and building practices.
- August 25, 2016 A flood insurance, floodplain management and CRS presentation was presented in the Savannah Area Board of Realtors (SABOR) conference room. The presentation was made possible through the efforts of Mr. Ben Farmer, past SABOR President. Through his connections, he was able to organize a team of local Realtors for this training. The goal of the training session was to expose local area realtors to the changes in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to provide exposure regarding the level of services provided by local Floodplain Administrators. The technical training session included topics on flood insurance basics which was delivered by Jeffery Brady with Mickey Roundtree Insurance Agency. Tom McDonald, CFM with the COS, and Michael Blakely, CFM with UCC, presented floodplain management and the CRS Program regarding the level of participation for both the COS and UCC. Additional topics discussed included a brief review of the local FDPO and the importance and significance of elevation certificates. To aid with the presentation, a variety of hand-outs consisting of flyers, brochures and pamphlets were provided to the Realtors. There were 58 Realtors present. The training session lasted just over 3 hours. This training session serves as an Additional Outreach Project under CRS activity 330. Photographs of the event and a copy of the sign-in sheet can be made available upon request.

Also on this date, a meeting was held at the City Hall Building in Garden City. The CC Floodplain Administrator was asked to assist in hosting a special presentation of the preliminary flood maps for Garden City. The event was held from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM. This event was an open invitation extended to the local residents to be advised of any flood zone changes associated with their property. This event qualifies for Activity 330 under CRS.

- GAFM held teleconferencing meetings five times on the following dates: September 30<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and December 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2015 and on March 23<sup>rd</sup> during the GAFM Conference and finally on July 13<sup>th</sup> of 2016. The March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting was held face to face with a quorum of Board member present during the GAFM conference. In general, the meeting discussion is centered on floodplain management issues and concerns, the sharing of information and planning the next annual conference. A particular focus moving forward is to reinstate the membership drive. Of the over 280 CFMs within the State of Georgia only 166 are members of GAFM. The hope is to increase membership to over 200 members.
- Courtney Reich, AICP, with the Ecological Planning Group (EPG), LLC organized several meetings during the year to implement the Chatham County Greenway Implementation Study within the greater Savannah Area. East Coast Greenway Project meetings were held in various locations within the COS on the following dates: January 11, 2016, February 2, 2016, and March 2, 2016. The Greenway Project Team met for approximately 2-hours during each meeting to discuss funding, suitable sites worthy of consideration, and development and implementation, project planning, CRS Activity credits and greenway maintenance considerations. The Project Team consists of representatives from the MPC, DOE, interested stakeholders and local area private consulting engineering firms. The function of the Stakeholder Committee is to provide information about relevant projects that might impact potential canal corridors and trails that were selected for consideration to assist EPG and the MPC with prioritizing/ranking potential greenways. Once the assessment of potential greenways is complete, the Chatham County Resources Protection Commission (RPC) will establish a funding process that will be reviewed as part of our planning efforts. A few benefits of this planning project are to provide protection of greenways to help with floodplain management because most of the corridors are to be located within the floodplain. Other topics of discussion and consideration included canal maintenance issues, public safety, public perceptions, and other environmental design features. The objective of the Greenway Project is to establish and develop a trail system, linking many of the major cities along the Eastern Seaboard between Canada and Key West. Our local Project Team is tasked with identifying and establishing specific greenway projects to connect with the National effort. A copy of the report can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.thempc.org/docs/lit/compplan/2016/mar/greenway.pdf>. The COS Floodplain Administrator was present to offer suggestions relating to CRS Open Space credit. Other meetings are TBA as this project progresses.
- As previously mentioned, the Group met 5 times over the past 12 months. The meetings are typically attended by local governmental staff members, institutional and agency representatives, and interested stakeholders. Meeting topics varied widely but typically

include Annual Re-certification Report submittal, Elevation Certificates, inviting new communities into the Group, Flood Response Preparation, Stakeholder delivery of the new DFIRMs, FDPO amendments and adoptions, and the formation of a Program for Public Information (PPI). On average, meeting attendance includes about 15 persons. Some notable accomplishments during the past year are as follows:

- a. The City of Tybee Island achieved a CRS Class Rating of 5.
  - b. COS achieved a CRS Class Rating of 5.
  - c. UCC achieved a CRS Class Rating of 5.
  - d. The Town of Thunderbolt achieved a CRS Class Rating of 6.
  - e. Scott Brazell with Camden County is listed as a Co-leader of the Group.
  - f. The Group presently encompasses all counties along the Georgia coast with many of the municipalities participating.
  - g. The City of Port Wentworth is considering making application to join CRS.
  - h. Development of the Elevation Certificate Reference Guide
  - i. Developing a Flood Insurance flyer showing a cost comparison of the house but variable change such as Year Built, elevation height, and location.
- Final Bullet COS has an ongoing capital drainage improvement program. The program is funded by the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). During the months it took to generate and complete this report, project status reports were provided to the City of Savannah council. The most recent version of the status report is included with this document to satisfy the requirements of CRS Activity 510. On September 19, 2016 the Stormwater Director Stormwater presented the Stormwater Drainage Update reporting on the drainage maintenance activity, CIP projects, and MS-4 Permit during City Council Workshop. That Drainage Update presentation and an inserts from the monthly report are attached. Additional information on any of the mentioned drainage improvement projects can be obtained by contacting Tom McDonald (912) 651-6530.

The preceding bullets earmark notable meetings, activities and milestones accomplished to date regarding our flood preparedness and resilience, flood awareness and flood mitigation efforts as identified in the current Flood Mitigation Plan. A copy of this Progress Report was presented to the Assistant City Manager via interoffice memorandum dated October 3, 2016. A copy was also presented to the local media and to the state NFIP Coordinating office as required by Activity 510, Floodplain Management Planning of FEMA's CRS Coordinator's Manual. Members of the general public desiring a copy may contact the COS or visit the COS website at [savannaga.gov](http://savannaga.gov) for viewing.

Mr. Tom McDonald, CFM serves as COS's Floodplain Administrator and CRS Program Manager.



Readers can obtain access to the August 6, 2015 Flood Mitigation Plan and/or receive copies of any of the documents previously referenced by contacting him or viewed them on the City's Flood Protection Information web page: [savannahga.gov](http://savannahga.gov) . Comments, suggestions and any questions can be submitted to him by calling (912) 6351-6530 or via email at [tmcdonald@savannahga.gov](mailto:tmcdonald@savannahga.gov).

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Regards,

  
Tom McDonald

Enclosure

CC: Stephanie Cutter, City Manager  
Georgia Emergency Management Agency

List of properties that City of Savannah acquired through the HMGP 1973 and the PDM 2011 Grants during the 2015 year. ** denotes FEMA RLA properties					
	Project	Seller	Property Address	PIN	Acquisition Date
1	HMGP 1973	Edward Stevens	1108 East Waldburg St	2-0042-10-013	6/16/2015
2	HMGP 1973	Horace Dixon	1312 Eleanor St	2-0068-10-028	8/30/2015
3	HMGP 1973	Belinda-Smiley-McLendon	12430 Deerfield Rd **	2-0692-06-037	9/11/2015
4	HMGP 1973	Sheryl Hamm	410 Montclair Blvd	2-0697-03-004	10/23/2015
	Project	Seller	Property Address	PIN	Acquisition Date
5	PDM 2011	Dallas J & Angelita M. McCall	202 Chatham St **	2-0562-10-002	6/19/2015
6	PDM 2011	Akila Scott	1715 Delesseps Ave **	2-0104-11-006	7/28/2015
7	PDM 2011	Wesley J Benyard	1310 Eleanor St	2-0068-10-029	5/13/2015
8	PDM 2011	Robert Mitchell	1320 Eleanor St	2-0068-10-024	4/30/2015
9	PDM 2011	Fred R. & Sarah Wasson	16 Paradise Dr	2-0589-06-014	11/12/2015
10	PDM 2011	Steven Latham	12411 Woodley Rd	2-0692-05-001	8/27/2015