



2020 ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION Action Item Evaluation Report Of the July 2015 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP)

City of Savannah, Georgia

Development Services Department

512.a. Floodplain management planning (FMP)

Documentation for FMP Provided by the Community

(2) With each annual recertification,

A copy of the annual evaluation report as specified in Step 10. The report must review each action item, describe what was implemented (or not implemented), and recommend changes to the action plan as appropriate. If not in the evaluation report document, the recertification submittal must also include the minutes of the committee meeting(s) (if getting credit for Step 10(b)) and a description of how the report was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public.

How the City provided the Report to the media and public:

1. The City of Savannah provided the report to the media through a press release by the City's Public Information Office.
2. The Report is posted on the City's Flood Protection Information Web Page.
3. Copies of the report are available at the City's Development Service Department,

Located at: 5515 Abercorn St, Savannah GA, 31405



October 5, 2020

J. David Holcomb
CRS Resource Specialist
JHolcomb@iso.com

Subject: 2019 ~ 2020 Flood Mitigation Plan, Annual Progress Report Documentation

Dear Mr. Holcomb:

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, Stormwater Department, Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), Office of Marketing and Communications Office (new PIO), the Unincorporated Chatham County (UCC), and the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC). The FMPC meetings were coordinated and scheduled by 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 2019/2020, the Group convened on Feb 28, 2019 and Sept 16, 2020, 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 July 2015 that City of Savannah Council approved on 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 September 2019 through August 2020. The projects outlined are referenced in our Flood Mitigation Plan, approved on 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) dated July 2015 and Repetitive Loss Area Analysis (RLAA) Plan dated July 2015.

- A special note the City has contracted David Stroud of Wood PLC to update the current Plans:
 - 512.a Floodplain management planning (FMP),
 - 512.b Repetitive loss area analysis (RLAA),
 - 512.c Natural floodplain functions plan (NFP)

September 2019:

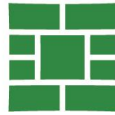
September 3-5: Hurricane Dorian, a Category 3 storm, passed by Savannah at 3:00 am, Wednesday, September 4.

September 10: The National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine call setting up the meeting. See September 17 -19 dates for details.

September 17 - 19: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), held several sessions from September 17 through 19, most days from 9:30 am – 4:00 pm, at the Mansion on Forsyth Park in Savannah, GA interviewing several key stake holders throughout Chatham County, Savannah, and Tybee Island.

The NASEM’s [Resilient America Program](#) is visiting select communities in the United States to better understand flood mitigation at the local level. The purpose of our community visits is to bring together key stakeholders to talk about their experiences with floods over the last several years and how their community is currently mitigating against future floods. Specifically, this FEMA-funded project seeks to better understand what communities are doing to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate against the impacts of floods and other disruptions in their communities. Resilient America will engage with four communities about their flood mitigation efforts, successes, and challenges: Biloxi, MS; Ellicott City, MD; Roanoke, Salem, and Vinton, VA; and **Savannah and Tybee Island, GA**. What we learn from these communities will help inform policy at the national level and provide examples to communities across the United States about the different types of flood mitigation efforts being implemented.

Handed out OPC outreach.



September 13: Outreach from 12:00 – 2:00 @ St. Andrew’s “Happy Science Day.” Presented the Floodplain model for grades one through four. Ran the Marsh, Parking lot, levee, and detention pond simulations showing how the different types of development can cause or reduce flooding up and down stream of the development site. Handed out OPC outreach.



September 13 and 27: [The Smart Sea Level Sensor Project](#): Participated on the bi-weekly committee call , 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. GA Tech, along with City of Savannah and Unincorporated Chatham County held a call-in meeting. During the meeting, Pam Cobb of GA Tech, updated the team on the progress of grants and planning outreach events. Additional people provided updates on their specific topics: (Mildred McClain, Harambee House, Hudson Hill Community Engagement), (Yanni Loukissas, GA Tech, [Map Room](#)), (Lalith Polepeddi, GA Tech, Web Site and phone interaction) (Nick Deffley, City of Savannah, Air Quality sensor & Green infrastructure), (Emanuele Dheardi Lorenzo, GA Tech, Map Modeling), (Russ Clark, GA Tech, Sensor design, fabrication, and installation), (Randall Mathews, Chatham County Emergency Management (CEMA), After event planning), (Tim Cone, GA Tech, School students interaction) and (Jayma Koval, Ed.S. GA Tech, [Educational Curriculum](#)) . To date 39 units have been installed with projecting 80

September 13: City staff mailed out latest version of the RLAA for CRS Activity 510 as required by Activity 330 and Activity 500 of the Coordinator’s Manual. This activity is required for continued CRS credit under Activity 512.b. Repetitive Loss Area Analysis (RLAA). Flood Damage Reduction letters were mailed to 412 structures in General Area #1, 253 structures in General Area #2, and 186 structures in General Area #3. The letters informed property owners of the flood history within City, flood insurance, changes to the flood program impacted by DFIRM maps adopted August 16, 2018, financial assistance, the requirement for building permits, the flood warning system, storm maintenance, natural and beneficial floodplain function and ways to protect their property from flood damage.

September 16 and 30: Sea Level Rise Sensor Harambee House Bi weekly community call
Link to Website: Air Quality Sensors: <https://www.theharambeehouse.net/2019/09/26/air-quality-monitoring-training/11/44/>

September 24: GAFM Brd Member Call #4 Time 2-3
Participated in GAFM’s Board meeting as the Coastal Committee Chair: Promote smart construction, mapping, flood insurance, CRS information, storm water erosion training and other floodplain activities across Georgia. Start Planning for the conference in March 2020 and web updating.

October 2019:

October 11: Participated on the Smart City Sea Level Rise, Sensor Project Workshop: call in call, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. See Sept. 13 and 17 entry for description.

October 19: Tropical Depression Nester came across Georgia with minimal damage to Savannah. This activity is also credited under Activity 610 which includes the After Action Report.

October 4: CRS Outreach: Instructor at Heard Elementary School, Time: 9:30- 12:00. Audience were four classes of 5th graders. Along with Mr. Michael Blakely of Chatham County Engineering, we used the Wards Floodplain Model to demonstrate how development can cause flooding, but local ordinances can provide solutions to prevent flooding and flood insurance to recover. We demonstrated four different phases of development: Natural Environment, New Development, Levee Wall protection, and New Construction with Retention Pond. to an estimated 70 students. Handed out OPC outreach.



October 8: ASFPM APA Conference Call 2-3 ASFPM/APA Project Check in with Savannah/Chatham County

October 8: ASFPM Committee Call time 3 pm – 4 pm. Discussion included: Executive Office/ Policy updates (Larry/ Chad) * CIP Coastal Resilience Project * Customer Experience Initiative Support * Improving Product Delivery Study * New Mapping Open House Participant Analysis * Update of ASFPM’s 1996 “Addressing Your Community’s Flood Problem, Elected Officials Guide



October 10: Field trip with Nick Deffley, Mildred McClain, and Michael Blakely to GA Tech in Atlanta GA to participate in the Map Room training. Prof. Yanni Loukissas, GA Tech, instructed on how to use the [Map Room](#) to convey Risks in a community. The group planned for the upcoming Hudson Hill community meeting. We discussed what talking points are to be addressed during the meeting which included flooding in the neighborhood and how to protect from flooding. Handed out OPC outreach.

October 23: Sea Level Rise Sensor Workshop Savannah State University. 9:00 AM – 4:00 AM EDT Location Hill Hall, 3219 College Street, Savannah GA. Community meeting updating the stake holders the programs progress. *Description:* The [Smart Sea Level Sensors](#) project team attend a forum to learn about the current status of the project and share your input with the entire project team. We will share updates on how we used the sensor network to track Hurricane Dorian, as well as discuss project goals for the next several months. Most importantly, we hope to collect feedback and input from key stakeholders like yourselves. Please add your voice to our discussions, as we seek to develop the project for maximum impact in the community.



Newspaper Article Writeup: Chatham lucked out by a few hours with Dorian <https://www.savannahnow.com/news/20191023/chatham-lucked-out-by-few-hours-with-dorian>

Community Workshop. Had 2018 OPC outreach.



October 24: CRS Task force in town: Michael Blakely, Tom McDonald, and Dr Russ Clark, of GA Tech, accompanied the task force on a tour to Tybee Island some other sites on the islands. The three took turns to discuss topics to include the sea level sensors projects, recent flooding impacts, and mitigation activities including stopping by a County's FEMA buyout property.



October 25: CRS Outreach: Instructor at Memorial Day School. Time: 9:00- 11:00. Presented to 1st through 5th graders (approximately 40 kids total) in two sessions about stormwater and flooding. Along with Mr. Michael Blakely of Chatham County Engineering, we used the Wards Floodplain Model to demonstrate how development can cause flooding, but local ordinances can provide solutions to prevent flooding and flood insurance to recover. We demonstrated four different phases of development: Natural Environment, New Development, Levee Wall protection, and New Construction with Retention Pond. The first group had approximately 25 students and included first through third graders. The second group had approximately 15 students and included fourth and fifth graders. Handed out OPC outreach.

October 29: GAFM Brd Member Call #5 Time 2-3

Participated in GAFM's Board meeting as the Coastal Committee Chair: Promote smart construction, mapping, flood insurance. CRS information, storm water erosion training and other floodplain activities across Georgia. Start Planning for the conference in March 2020.

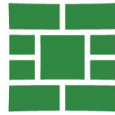
November 2019

November 5: GAFM Brd Meeting

November 7 and 8 GA climate Conference, Emory Conference Center Hotel Atlanta GA City of Savannah staff participated in the Annual Georgia Climate Conference. The conference was held at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Nick Duffle was a presenter and Mr. Blakely's was one of four panelists to discuss "Building Climate Resilient Communities in Georgia." Mr. Blakely's presentation lasted approximately 30 minutes where he addressed concerns with sea level rise, climate change, enforcing higher standards in the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (FDPO), and promoted the purchase of flood insurance. There was more than 300 audience members from across the state and nation. This activity qualifies as an OPC and served to satisfy Activity 330 in the CRS Coordinator's Manual. A copy of the conference agenda can be provided upon request.

November 8 and 22: Participated on the Smart City Sea Level Rise, Sensor Project Workshop: call in call , 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. See Sept 13 and 17 entry for description.

November 13: Outreach: GIS DAY Along with Michael Blakely of the UCC and Thomas Jeanquart of COS, presented floodplain information and Ward's Floodplain Model at the 13th Annual GIS Day held at



Savannah State University, Student Union Building from 8 AM until 2:30 PM. The goal of GIS Day was to educate close to 450 local 8th grade students about the adverse flooding effects poor development has on a community. We used the Wards Floodplain Model to demonstrate how development can cause flooding, but local ordinances can provide solutions to prevent flooding. In a span of ten minutes per cycle, we demonstrated four different phases of development. The first phase shows an undeveloped site followed by three examples of development that can occur during a construction project. The three phases built on top of each other as we introduced an area of impervious surfaces, erecting a levee, and installing a detention pond.

Handed out OPC outreach.



November 19: May Howard Elementary School STEM Night, 115 Wilmington Island Road Savannah, GA 31410. From 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Along with Christine Williams and Michael Blakely of the UCC, we presented floodplain information and Ward's Floodplain Model. The goal of Stem Night is to educate students and parents about the adverse flooding effects poor development has on a community. We used the Wards Floodplain Model to demonstrate how development can cause flooding, but local ordinances can provide solutions to prevent flooding. In a span of ten minutes per cycle, we demonstrated four different phases of development. The first phase shows an undeveloped site followed by three examples of development that can occur during a construction project that include adding impervious surfaces, erecting a levee, and installing a detention pond.

Handed out OPC outreach.



December 2019

December 6 and 20: Participated on the Smart City Sea Level Rise, Sensor Project Workshop: call in call, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. See Sept 13 and 17 entry for description.

December 5: Meeting: Chatham County Engineering Department, 124 Bull St, Savannah GA 31401. CRS Sea Level Rise Study Grant The City and County are completing a SLR study in leu of the CRS requirement for a Watershed Master Plan to meet the Class Four prerequisite. The main purpose of this meeting will be to discuss CIPs for the City of Savannah and Chatham County. The team included City and County personnel plus the consultant and project manager Courtney Reich of GMC Company and the groups computer modeler, Prof. Jason Evans of Stetson University.

December 8: 2019 Annual Outreach to the Community (old OPC) is release in the Sunday newspaper:

How Prepared are You? Distribution of the six pages Outreach Project to the Community (OPC). The insert is required as part of the CRS program that advertises City's services. The fall 2019 OPC was distributed via the Sunday newspaper and other promotional edition of the Savannah Morning News. The OPC is an annual joint effort between the Garden City, COS, the MPC and UCC. Additional communities that receive CRS outreach points are Thunderbolt, Tybee Island, Pooler, and Bloomingdale. The six full pages, multi-jurisdictional outreach included pertinent websites and community contacts, a map of Stormwater Department's flooded structures, and current FIRM. Additionally, subject matter that addresses flood insurance, ICC, historic FIRM, on site visits, storm water drainage, floodplain management, no adverse impact, elevation certificates, permitting requirements, financial assistance, the CRS program and CEMA's hurricane warning system. 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.



January 2020

January 1, 2020: Chatham County began 2020 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. Activity 610

January 2: OPF mailed out Outreach to the Floodplain (OPF). As part of the CRS program Activity 330, sent out over 19,000 flyers to all structures in the Special Flood Hazard Area in the City of Savannah and Unincorporated Chatham County. The required yearly outreach informs the recipient that their property is in the High-Risk area. The flyer provides FIRM map, contacts, web sources, flood history, FEMA grants, flood protection and insurance information. The leaflet is also used at other public outreach presentation activities as a handout.



January 15: Chatham County HMPC Final Meeting on Draft Plan. The final HMPC Meeting to discuss the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan will be held on Wednesday, January 15th at 12:30 PM at 2 East Bay Street, City of Savannah, 31401, City Hall in the 4th Floor Conference Room. The Draft Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) is now posted on the plan website at www.chathamcountyga-hmp.com/draftDocuments.html. Please review the draft and send us your comments or questions by Wednesday, January 15th. Provide stakeholder support.

January 16: **ASFPM** Coastal Committee Call 2:30 – 3:20, A ZOOM meeting, Committee Co-Chairs: Lori Cary-Kothera and Tom McDonald hosted the call. Topics discussed: Providing floodplain information and education to local and national audience ** Quick ASFPM updates * Results from the Coastal



Committee survey * Hear what your peers want to tackle in the new decade * Sea Level Rise - one of the top topics of interest from the survey. Let's talk a bit about how it is affecting your coastal communities. Committee Chairs Lori Cary-Kothera and Tom McDonald

January 23: Sea Level Rise Meeting at 124 Bull St 9:00 AM-11:00 AM, Steering Committee meeting. Chris Tolleson; Courtney Reich; Zack Hoffman; Jason Evans; Suzanne Cooler; Michael Blakely; Rob Brown. The main purpose of this meeting will be to discuss CIPs for the City of Savannah and Chatham County. See December 5, 2019 entry for background.

February 2020

February 4: Public meeting to bring flood awareness and other risks to the neighborhood. As Part of the Sea Level Rise -Sensors project meeting 9 am – 5 pm / held at Woodville-Tompkins High School. Event Breakout #1 – CEMA Portal (Randall, Lalith, Akhil, Kate) * Breakout #2 – Modelling team (Manu, Jorge-Mario, (Kim)) * Breakout #3 – Air quality (Kim, Russ investigate Woodville install) * Breakout #4 – Maproom planning for summer, future (Tim, Yanni, Nick) * Mobile Map Room Demo launch (Loukissas & Cone) * Harambee House Maproom event begins at Woodville. Handed out OPC outreach.

February 5: Sea Level Rise -Sensors project meeting 8:30 – 4:00 pm City of Savannah Executive Stakeholder Briefings and Chatham County Executive Stakeholder Briefing Attendees from SSLS team: Kim, Russ, Nick, Randall, Manu, Tim , location: City Hall (2 East Bay St., 4th Floor Conference Room) meeting with Mayor, Alderwoman At-Large Kesha Gibson-Carter & Alderman Nick Palumbo * City Manager Patrick Monahan * Alderwoman and Mayor Pro Tem Estella Shabazz & Assistant City Manager Heath Lloyd. The meeting explained the Sea Level Rise Sensor project to City and County official to inform them of the program and how it will help with planning and warning of flooding. Handed out OPC outreach.

February 20: CRS Outreach STEM night: Instructor at Heard Elementary School, 414 Lee Blvd, Savannah, GA 31405, Time: 5:00pm - 7:30pm. STEM night. Along with Mr. Michael Blakely of Chatham County Engineering, we used the Wards Floodplain Model to demonstrate how development can cause flooding, but local ordinances can provide solutions to prevent flooding. We demonstrated four different phases of development: Natural Environment, New Development, Levee Wall protection, and New Construction with Retention Pond. Handed out OPC outreach.





February 25: Outreach: Georgia Surveyors (SAMSOG) training. Location: Thomas & Hutton Office: 50 Park of Commerce Way, Savannah, GA 31405. 6:00 to 7:00 pm. 23 attendees. SAMSOG group provide Elevation Certificate instructions and required plat floodplain information. Discussed Surveyor CFM program hosting an advanced EC training class. How important the Surveyor are to insure accurate flood premiums through the ECs. Handed out OPC outreach.



March 2020

March 6 and 20: Participated on the Smart City Sea Level Rise, Sensor Project Workshop: call in call, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. See Sept 13 and 17 entry for description.

March 2, 16 and 30: Biweekly call: Sea Level Sensor - Community Engagement Standing Mtg

March 12: National Science Foundation : Main Contact: Jill Gambill (Co-Principal Investigator) participated in call by serve on the advisory board for the NSF-funded project on the integration of sense of place into visualizations of hurricane storm surge threats. The project is currently underway, and we are making good progress. With a slight delay due to Hurricane Dorian, we have completed six focus groups in coastal Georgia on November 11-15, 2019. The focus group data (which included cognitive mapping) are currently being analyzed and will inform the development of customized 2D and 3D storm surge geovisualizations, which will later be tested in a survey disseminated throughout Southeast and in additional focus groups. This March meeting they present the project updates and to discuss the next steps. Our project team would appreciate your feedback on the initial results and on the strategy for developing effective geovisualizations for storm surge risk communication. The project information can be found on the [NSF website](#) and [here](#) is a story that was published by NCAR.

March 12: National and Georgia training 2:00pm – 3:00 pm, with aide from Michael Blakely, GAFM At-Large Representative, and Tom McDonald, ASFPM Coastal Co-Chair and GAFM Coastal Representative, and Lori Cary-Kothera Lori of NOAA and ASFPM Coastal Co-chair, coordinated a Lunch and Learn webinar about FEMA buyout Program. *FEMA Acquisition Success in Georgia: Disasters and Non-disasters*, join us as we host speaker Steve Juszczky (FEMA Region IV Mitigation State Lead for Georgia) to share his experience with FEMA buyouts. While focused on Georgia, Steve will share insights on the process that may be very helpful to other locations. There will be time at the end of the presentation for Q&A.

March 12: CRS Outreach: Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts, 649 West Jones Street Savannah, GA 31401. is hosting our 2nd annual STEAM Night on Thursday, March 12, 2020 from 5:30 – 7:00pm. The age range of students attending Garrison School for the Arts is anywhere between 5 – 14 years. Along with Mr. Michael Blakely of Chatham County Engineering, we used the Wards Floodplain Model to demonstrate how development can cause flooding, but local ordinances can provide solutions to prevent flooding. We demonstrated four different phases of development: Natural Environment, New Development, Levee Wall protection, and New Construction with Retention Pond. Handed out OPC outreach.



March 17: GAFM board Meeting call. Discuss the conference March 30-2 Watershed Vision 2020, A Clear Look at the Future of Floodplain Management. Due to COVID 19, this year's in person conference at Lake Lanier was canceled and rescheduled for virtual conference September 28-October 1, 2020

April 2020

April 3 and 17: Participated in the Smart City Sea Level Rise, Sensor Project Workshop: call in call, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. See Sept 13 and 17, 2019 entry for description.

April 9: Update Call Meeting: 2:30 -3:30. CRS Sea Level Rise Study Grant for in leu of the CRS requirement for a Watershed Master Plan. The main purpose of this meeting will be to discuss CIPs for the City of Savannah and Chatham County. The team included City and County personnel plus the consultant and project manager Courtney Reich of GMC Company and the groups computer modeler, and Prof. Jason Evans of Stetson University. See December 5, 2019 entry for background.

APRIL 16, National and Georgia training: with aide from Michael Blakely, GAFM At-Large Representative, and Tom McDonald, ASFPM Coastal Co-Chair and GAFM Coastal Representative, and Lori Cary-Kothera Lori of NOAA and ASFPM Coastal Co-chair, coordinated *Natural-based Solutions for Floodplain Managers* Lunch and Learn Webinar: 1 pm - 2 pm. Guest speakers Lauren Long, Coastal Conservation Specialist and Tashya Allen, Coastal Hazard Specialist, present an interactive webinar to learn about a suite of natural infrastructure products available from NOAA's Digital Coast. Resources highlighted will help participants get started with natural infrastructure planning, from visualizing impacts of coastal hazards and climate change, to prioritizing natural infrastructure options. It will be a great opportunity to explore some new products!

NOAA's Digital Coast: <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/topics/green-infrastructure.html>

April 14: CEMA Hurricane Preparedness Conf was canceled this year due to COVID 19, however a virtual conference occurred on July 30, 2020

April 18: **Earth Day** was canceled this year due to COVID 19.

April 21: location NOAA Charleston SC Modeling & Infrastructure Impact Discussion w/ NOAA National Weather Services in Charleston. As part of the Sea Level Rise, Sensor's Program. Dr. Kim Cobb, Dr. Russ Clark provided a project overview about the tide Sensor's and data provided. Dr. Emanuele Di Lorenzo presented: Savannah Model Overview & DOD Proposal, and Dr. Iris Tien presented on Infrastructure Impact.

MAY 2020

May 1, 15, and 29: Participated in the Smart City Sea Level Rise, Sensor Project Workshop: call in call, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. See Sept 13 and 17, 2019 entry for description.

May 16: Home Depot 9-1 was canceled this year due to COVID 19.



May 19: GAFM board Meeting call. Discuss the conference March 30-2 Watershed Vision 2020, A Clear Look at the Future of Floodplain Management. Due to COVID 19, this year's in person conference at Lake Lanier was canceled and rescheduled for virtual conference September 28-October 1, 2020

June 2020

June 12 and 26: Participated in the Smart City Sea Level Rise, Sensor Project Workshop: call in call, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. See Sept 13 and 17, 2019 entry for description.

June 8 and 22: Sea Level Rise Sensor Harambee House Bi weekly community call

Link to Website: Air Quality Sensors: <https://www.theharambeehouse.net/2019/09/26/air-quality-monitoring-training/11/44/>

June 1: National and Georgia training: with aide from Michael Blakely, GAFM At-Large Representative, and Tom McDonald, ASFPM Coastal Co-Chair and GAFM Coastal Representative, and Lori Cary-Kothera Lori of NOAA and ASFPM Coastal Co-chair, coordinated Predictions for 2020 Hurricane Season - Please join the NAI and Coastal Issues committees June 1st at 1 pm EST as we kick off hurricane season with Dr. Chris Landsea, Tropical Analysis & Forecast Branch Chief at National Hurricane Center. Dr. Landsea will share the 2020 seasonal outlook as well as highlight current and new National Hurricane Center products and services. We will also have time to give a few updates about the ASFPM virtual annual conference the following week. It will be a great way to start thinking about preparations for hurricane season.

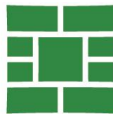
June 4: Zoom with Chatham/Savannah/GMC for CIG extension. Update Call Meeting: 3:30- 4:30. CRS Sea Level Rise Study Grant for in leu of the CRS requirement for a Watershed Master Plan. Prof. Jason Evans of Stetson University provides an update of the modeling of which Stormwater structures are affected by 2100 Sea Level Rise level. See December 5, 2019 entry for background.

June 9-11: ASFPM annual conference in Ft. Worth TX was canceled due to COVID 19, but it was rescheduled as a virtual 3-day conference. Several City employees attended the virtual conference.

June 19: Participated in a new ASFPM Group discussion: *Higher Education Committee* and *Climate Change Working Group* meetings scheduled 12 pm – 1 pm. The Zoom Climate change working group discussion (Our intent is to identify climate change opportunities available to ASFPM committees and working groups. Discussion leads are identified) Areas of interest and their discussion lead are as follows. **NAI** –Lori Cary-Kothera and Tom McDonald, **Mapping / Scenario** - Darry Hatheway and Meg Galloway, **Resilience** – Jeanne Ruefer, Niki Pace, and Lori, **Climate Mitigation** – Bob Freitag Niki Pace, Lori Cary-Kothera, **Hazards Mitigation** – Mitch Pain, and **Regulations** – Bill Nechamen. The discussion will help me understand future risk and how to communicate the risks.

June 23: ASFPM Committee Co-Chairs Annual (Rescheduled) Meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2020.

June 25: Michael Blakely and Tom McDonald's Elevation Certificate Guide. Mike Robinson hosted a WebEX meeting from 1:30 PM-2:30 PM, ASFPM Foundation has awarded a grant for the Georgia Floodplain Elevation Certificate Guide. Michael Blakely and Tom McDonald were the original creators



of the guide and ASFPM Foundation is bringing the project to a national publication. The purpose of this call is to discuss status and next steps with regard to the Georgia Elevation Certificate project. When the Project is completed, the program will help surveyors, floodplain managers, and insurance agents pick the right diagram number. The outcome is to improve proper selection of the EC's building diagram number to ensure appropriate flood insurance premium.

July 2020

July 10 and 24: Participated in the Smart City Sea Level Rise, Sensor Project Workshop: call in call, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. See Sept 13 and 17, 2019 entry for description.

July 6 and 20: Sea Level Rise Sensor Harambee House Bi weekly community call

Link to Website: Air Quality Sensors: <https://www.theharambeehouse.net/2019/09/26/air-quality-monitoring-training/11/44/>

July 2: *Thousands of Chatham Residents Think They're Safe from Flooding. They Aren't* Michael Blakey featured in a newspapers interview. <https://www.savannahnow.com/news/20200702/thousands-of-chatham-residents-think-theysquare-safe-from-flooding-they-arensquot>. The nonprofit First Street Foundation combined a series of nationwide flooding models into one tool to create FloodFactor.com.

July 15: Training: "Georgetown Climate Center's Managed Retreat Toolkit Launch". 12 pm -1 pm. Called into the training event.

July 17: Participated in a new ASFPM Group discussion: *Higher Education Committee and Climate Change Working Group* meetings scheduled 12 pm – 1 pm. See June 19 for more details.

July 23: Mike Robinson hosted a WebEX meeting from 1:30 PM-2:30 PM, ASFPM Foundation has awarded a grant for the *Georgia Floodplain Elevation Certificate Guide*. See June 23 for more details. Added to the team: Del Schwalls, elevation certificate trainer and Wes Shaw, web-based programing.

July 23 and 27: *Training: A two days of training 9 pm -12 pm Modeling, Prediction, and Sensor Networks for Coastal Flooding in the US East Coast.* In recent years, a growing number of projects are focusing on the design and implementation of integrated observing and modeling systems through sustained, active partnership with coastal communities facing more frequent and severe flooding, inundations, and sea-level rise. In an effort to coordinate and accelerate these parallel research efforts, and their translation into tangible solutions for community stakeholders, this workshop will provide a forum to identify synergies, best practices, and opportunities for greater collaboration amongst these researchers.

July 29: TV Interview to be broadcasted on WSAV News: Tom McDonald and Michael Blakely coordinated an interview with Ms. JoAnn Merrigan of a local TV station, WSAV. The interview was held at 112 Winchester Drive as a backdrop because the house was recently demolished as part of a FEMA buy out. Michael talked about contacting local floodplain managers concerning flooding, Flood Insurance, home visits, FEMA grants, and other flooding topics. This should qualify as OPC credit



July 30: Training: virtual *Hurricane Preparedness During a Pandemic* conference on July 30, 2020. Write Up: This conference, hosted by *Georgia Tech-Savannah* and the *Chatham Emergency Management Agency*, is packed with insightful knowledge and experienced presenters that will give you insight into preparing for a hurricane during a pandemic. This is certainly a unique time that calls for even more planning and preparation as we move into the heart of the 2020 hurricane season.

August 2020

August 7 and 21: Participated in the Smart City Sea Level Rise, Sensor Project Workshop: call in call, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. See Sept 13 and 17, 2019 entry for description.

August 3 and 17: Sea Level Rise Sensor Harambee House Bi weekly community call

Link to Website: Air Quality Sensors: <https://www.theharambeehouse.net/2019/09/26/air-quality-monitoring-training/11/44/>

August 22-28, 2020: City and County staff member participated in a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to promote hurricane awareness, the purchase of flood insurance and floodplain management activities. The PSA was broadcast in its longest format during a special local news cast called: "Storm Watch 2020: A WSAV Special." Over a period spanning a little over a week, shorter segments of the PAS were broadcast. The PSA is believed to have reached several thousand viewers within the Coastal Empire of Savannah and the South Carolina low country. This activity serves as an Additional Outreach under CRS Activity 330. A copy of the PAS can be made available for your review and evaluation upon request.

Two specific Group meeting dates of importance are as follows:

February 28, 2019: The Coastal Georgia CRS User Group held a meeting at City Hall in Garden City, Georgia. Ron Alexander of Garden City provided the venue. The moderators for the meeting included Tom McDonald with the COS, Scott Brazell with Camden County and Michael Blakely with UCC. There were 17 individuals in attendance that included local government, insurance agent and the private sector. During the meeting, significant conversation was presented to address the COS's and UCC's efforts to develop a stormwater master plan to satisfy the prerequisite for achieving a CRS Class 4 rating. Other topics covered during the meeting included but was not limited to initiating FEMA's High Water Mark Program, starting a PPI for the County jurisdictions and completing the OPC and OPF mailers. A copy of the meeting agenda and sign-in sheet can be made available upon request. This training qualifies for credit under CRS Activity 430 in the Coordinator's Manual.

September 16, 2020: The Coastal Georgia CRS User Group held a virtual meeting to continue our efforts during the pandemic. The moderator for the meeting was Tom McDonald with the COS with Scott Brazell with Camden County and Michael Blakely with UCC assisting. There were 27 participates total either on line or the telephone from across the states of Georgia and South Carolina. The feature presentation of the meeting was to provide a progress report on the "Sea Level Rise Impacts on the Stormwater Systems in Chatham County." The project status update was presented by Courtney Reich and Dr. Jason Evans. In short, the purpose of the Sea Level Rise Impacts report is intended to replace the required Watershed Master Plan, required by CRS, to address the Class 4 prerequisite requirement. The next phase of the project is to make a formal presentation to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and the City Council of Savannah for adoption. Lastly, the report will be presented to ISO for review and evaluation. A copy of the draft report can be made available upon request.



The impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the following scheduled events: The Georgia Association of Floodplain Management (GAFM) Technical Flood Conference during March 30 thru April 1st; CEMA's Hurricane Conference on April 14th; Earth Day on April 18th; The Home Depot Hurricane Expo on May 16th; CEMA's 2nd Annual Citizens Hurricane Academy typically held during the month of July; and in-person meeting of Coastal Georgia CRS Users Group.

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 . Comments, suggestions and any questions can be submitted to him by calling (912) 6351-6530 or via email at tmcdonald@savannahga.gov.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Regards,


Tom McDonald, CFM

CC: Pat Monahan, City Manager
Nick Zoller, Office of Marketing and Communications (Release to the public)
Haydn **Blaize**, State Floodplain Management Coordinator and NFIP Coordinator