



Georgia Association of Floodplain Management

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Press Release

Terri Turner, the Assistant Zoning and Planning Administrator for Augusta/Richmond County, Georgia, was honored with two Awards at the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management (GAFM) 2010 Annual Conference recently held at Lake Lanier Islands, GA. Ms. Turner was presented the Meritorious Achievement Award for her work in coordinating volunteers to perform critical damage assessments in Cobb and DeKalb Counties, and she was presented the Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding service to the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management. She is now in the unique position of being the only recipient of all three GAFM individual awards, having been the recipient of the Outstanding Floodplain Manager Award at the 2009 Annual Conference in Columbus, Georgia.

The Meritorious Achievement Award recognizes an individual for achievement in floodplain management above and beyond the “call of duty”. William Higgins, the Manager of the Stormwater Division of the Cobb County Water System had this to say about Ms. Turner: “...I was anticipating in excess of 600 homes flooded in Unincorporated Cobb and had only 4 teams to inspect these homes...When I related this to Terri she sprang into action. In no time flat she had assembled a group of 28 volunteers who were willing to take time off from their jobs for a week to assist us at no charge!...The bottom line is that Terri’s volunteers accomplished in one week, what it would have taken us 6 weeks or more to have done in-house. As you can imagine, the flood victims are distraught and are demanding answers. The volunteers, thanks to Terri efforts, made it possible for us to assess our needs, and provide answers to these flood victims much more quickly and they placed us one step closer to applying for long-term federal aid...” Ms. Turner is a well-deserving recipient of the first GAFM Meritorious Achievement Award.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual who has been an outstanding influence on the credibility, responsiveness, and overall quality of GAFM. The nominee should characterize the finest in selfless dedication to promoting and expanding recognition of GAFM as an organization of the highest quality. Ms. Turner admirably exhibits these characteristics. Her outreach efforts to all communities during her tenure have greatly increased the ranks of Certified Floodplain Managers within the State of Georgia. She was instrumental in establishing the GAFM fall technical conference. This has ensured an alternative date and location for our membership to get the required continuing education credits required for their CFM when the Annual Conference is not an option for them. Ms. Turner has the temperament to

draw people to sound design and disaster mitigation policies required for quality, sustainable growth in the State of Georgia. Ms. Turner continues to lobby state political leaders on floodplain management issues with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy, commitment, and drive. Through her interaction with State government agencies, she is working to create a more expeditious way for governments to respond to flood disasters. She has served admirably as the Chairwoman of the GAFM Board of Directors and is more than deserving of recognition for Distinguished Service to GAFM.