Hopkins Road Flyover
Sweetwater Park
Caraustar Facility
Austell Powder Springs Road
Lessons Learned

• After a flooding disaster the public could care less about:
  – …how much it rained; or
  – …what frequency the rain event was; or
  – …how saturated the ground was; or
  – …how many culverts became clogged; or
  – …whether or not they should have had flood insurance
Lessons Learned

• All the general public wants to know is...

  ...what **government** will do and how fast
Lessons Learned

• Many
  – ...living in the floodplain still do not have flood insurance
  – ...do not understand what the FEMA floodplain maps represent
  – ...private Dam Owners do not understand or accept what their individual responsibilities are...
Statistics

• The rains returned water levels in the region’s two largest reservoirs, Lake Lanier and Allatoona Lake to pre-drought levels:

  – Lake Lanier rose by more than 3-ft to Elevation 1068 by September 25th and returned to full pool in October

  – Allatoona Lake rose to Elevation 853.25 on September 23, more than 13 feet above flood Pool at Elevation 840.
Statistics

• In Cobb County, the following creeks reached or exceeded the 500-year frequency event:
  – Sweetwater Creek
  – Noses Creek
  – Noonday Creek
  – Butler Creek, and
  – Powder Springs Creek
Statistics

• On Sweetwater Creek near Austell...
  – High Water Marks showed peak stage of record at 30.8 ft
  – Previous peak stage recorded 7/11/2005 from Hurricane Dennis at 21.87 ft.
  – Peak Flow (31,500 cfs) was more than double the previously recorded peak flow of record
Statistics

• On the Chattahoochee River, the USGS gage at Vinings recorded...
  
  – A Peak Stage of 28.12 feet

  – Peak Discharge of 40,900 cfs

  – Estimated flood Frequency = 100-200 year
Statistics

• 794 homes flooded in Unincorporated Cobb
  – 497 homes with 100-yr floodplain on all or part of property
  – 297 properties were outside the 100-year floodplain
  – 112 “Substantially Damaged” (SD)
  – FEMA Buyout Grant awarded for 35 SD homes in floodplain
  – 67 SD home outside floodplain were not funded

• 700 + Homes flooded in the City of Austell

• 100 + Homes flooded in City of Powder Springs
  • 16 “Substantially Damaged”
Thankfully…

• Although there were 10 deaths in Georgia no one perished in Cobb County.
• No dams failed in Cobb County…why?
  – Georgia Safe Dams Program?
  – Storage Volume Purchase program?
  – Cobb County Development Standards?
  – Good Luck?
• Previous home buyouts were not there to be flooded again
• USGS Continuous Streamflow Network – allowed tracking
• Statewide 28 Volunteers appeared and helped for a week
• RSDE inspections completed within 1 week
• RSDE assessments completed within 1 month
• Alliances with U.S.G.S., USACOE, GAFM & GEMA came in handy
  – USGS: Gage Network & Storm Freq Estimates
  – USACOE: Field Surveyed High Water Marks
  – GAFM: 28 Volunteers for Damage Assessments
  – GEMA: Plotted course for buyout grants