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February 17, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gloucester Recognized for its Floodplain Management Efforts

The Virginia Floodplain Management Association (VFMA) recently named Gloucester County its 2021 Community of the Year. An award was formally presented to representatives of the County Feb. 8.

“Gloucester was nominated and selected for the award based on the unbelievable work the County has done in floodplain management,” said Kenneth Somerset, regional representative on the VFMA Leadership Team. Somerset added that Gloucester was the first to create an active public/private group that eventually led to the formation of the County’s Floodplain Management Committee.

This committee now meets quarterly to evaluate the County’s adopted Floodplain Management Plan. This plan analyzes the County’s existing coastal flood management practices and provides recommendations to strengthen the overall flood management program, helping to lessen the amount of damage caused by coastal flooding.

Somerset said that it was because of the efforts of the members on that committee that helped Gloucester become the first “Class 6” rated locality in the Commonwealth within the Community Rating System, providing residents with substantial discounts on their flood insurance premiums. “They were able to set the standard for everyone else in the Commonwealth to follow,” he added. “In the case of Gloucester’s Floodplain Management Team, the people really do have a voice that is heard across the Commonwealth and FEMA Region III – a voice that is appreciated and respected by all.”

Speaking of the award the County received, Somerset said, “There was no doubt that Gloucester County deserved the first VFMA CRS Community of the Year Award based on the work they have done, the standard they have set, and the leadership they have provided the Commonwealth and the VFMA. Because of their willingness to share the experiences, both good and bad, others have been able to improve their CRS rating and public service.”

“We’re very proud of the work that the staff and volunteers did to earn this recognition,” added Carol Steele, Gloucester’s Acting County Administrator. For more information on flooding in Gloucester, visit <https://www.gloucesterva.info/422/Flood-Information>.



Shown receiving the Virginia Floodplain Management Association's Community of the Year Award on behalf of Gloucester County are, from left, Ken Evans, chairman of the County's Floodplain Management Committee; Brent Payne, the County's Floodplain Administrator; and Paul Koll, Gloucester's Building Official and former Floodplain Administrator.