



Georgetown County, South Carolina

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County receives APWA reaccreditation with perfect score

GEORGETOWN COUNTY — Following a process that lasted nearly a year and a half, the Georgetown County Public Services Department has received reaccreditation from the American Public Works Association.

Examiners from the APWA spent a full day on site in Georgetown last week, scrutinizing more than 150 of the department's standard operating procedures and accompanying policies. It was the final component of an arduous process for reaccreditation, and Georgetown County Public Services Department passed with flying colors. Not only did it achieve a score of 100 percent, but the county was commended for three of its best practices:

- Development of a comprehensive safety manual,
- Development of a countywide asset management system, and
- A policy that has managers review proper personal protection equipment usage

annually with staff.

"This is no small feat," said Ray Funnye, director of the Georgetown County Public Services Department. "This shows our department is operating at the highest standards, going well beyond standard requirements. Only five such agencies in South Carolina are accredited by this esteemed international organization. Georgetown County was only the second in the state to receive accreditation back in 2011."

The APWA serves both the United States and Canada.

"Thank you for perpetuating what right looks like," said John Lawlor, part of the APWA examination team, upon announcing the reaccreditation.

The APWA accreditation program recognizes governmental agencies that go beyond the requirements of the management practices established in the public works industry. The program involves a self-assessment process, in which staff documents its own work procedures and practices on a daily basis before an accreditation team conducts an on-site evaluation. The process is voluntary and self-motivated.

Funnye said this achievement was made possible by his staff, who worked tirelessly on the project, including Georgetown County Stormwater Manager Tracy Jones, who headed the project with a small team. Team members included Cassandra Coleman, Chris Hancock, Kevin Stimpson, Janet Combs, James Coley, Michelle LaRocco and Stephen Williams.

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