



MINUTES

Pinellas County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group Meeting

01/25/2008

- Call to order - 10:00AM The meeting called to order by Betti Johnson, AICP, Emergency Management Program, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC)
- Introductions – Attendees introduced themselves.
- Presentation – LMS History
Betti Johnson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the LMS and its process. (The PowerPoint is available to LMS Members and the public on the web site www.pinellaslms.org)
- Motion – Chairman and Vice-Chairman
A motion was made by Betti (TBRPC) and seconded by Charlie Fant (Fire Chief, Treasure Island) to elect Sally Bishop (Director, Pinellas County Emergency Management) as Chairman, and Ed McKenzie (Emergency Management Coordinator, Pinellas County Emergency Management) as Vice-Chair. The motion passed. Sally addressed the group, expressing appreciation for their support and optimism for future projects.
- Motion – Vote for Pinellas County Emergency Management
A motion was made by John Creighton (North Redington Shores) to amend the bylaws to make Pinellas County Emergency Management a voting member of the committee, in addition to Pinellas County Planning department. It was seconded by Muriel Whitman, Mayor, Kenneth City, and passed by the group.
- Item – Betti reviewed the voting status of the members of the committee.
 - Voting members represent each municipality, the Pinellas County School Board, County Emergency Management Department and the County Planning Department.
 - Advisory members including private industry and not-for-profit entities do not have a vote, but are consulted for technical expertise and valuable input into the planning process.
- Presentation – Eckerd College
Lisa Mets, Executive Assistant to the President, gave a presentation on the accomplishments and services of Eckerd College. The college is the only public non-profit organization on Florida's west coast to receive a competitive Pre Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDMG), which they will use to conduct a comprehensive engineering survey of all the buildings on campus and to develop a Mitigation Plan for the College.
 - As Eckerd College was not an eligible subgrantee under the PDMG Program, TBRPC served as the grant contractor.
 - Martha Braddock, formerly of FEMA, was extremely helpful in the grant application process and is available to assist local governments with similar project applications.

- Eckerd College's facilities are available for meetings and conferences for LMS members.
- Discussion – Not-for-Profit participation.
The Working Group discussed various methods to increase participation of not-for-profit organizations, faith based groups and the private sector. Presently, all members or organizations are notified of every meeting via e-mail 15 days prior to the meeting. All information about the meeting, as well as minutes drafted subsequent to the meeting, is disseminated in the same manner. Printed material is mailed upon request as well as distributed at the meeting. All materials will be available on the web site: www.pinellaslms.org
- Discussion – Projects in the LMS Plan

The LMS Plan is designed to show pending initiatives in Appendix 9 and accomplished initiatives in Appendix 10. It is important to show the mitigation accomplishments of local governments with and without state and federal funding. This clearly demonstrates a commitment on the part of local governments to making their communities safer. In many instances this funding can be used as part of local / global match for federal grants. In addition, Pinellas County Emergency Management committed to maintaining a single list of pending and accomplished projects so that they would be available in one place.
- Discussion – FEMA training on cost analysis
It was discovered that the Benefit/Cost training received from FEMA and the State last year was not the module accepted by FEMA for this HMGP round of applications. This forced many applicants to be required to resubmit their B/C Analysis. The LMS Working Group will have proper training on the current method made available before the 2009 update to the plan. In the meantime, all existing projects will have an assumed cost benefit of 1.0.
- Item – New project submittal
New projects were submitted by several local governments, the Pinellas Association for Retarded Children (PARC) and St. Anthony Hospital. Any additional projects are due to TBRPC by the end of January for submittal with the interim update to DEM.
- Discussion – Updating of projects on the LMS
Prior to this meeting, TBRPC listed local project initiatives on a google.doc website so that members could update them at a single, central location. The group agreed that this was a suitable procedure for future updates.
- Item – Betti Johnson with TBRPC said they will update the LMS website (www.pinellaslms.org) with the new lists of project initiatives and accomplishments, membership list, etc.
- Discussion – There was considerable discussion regarding the need to emphasize citizen involvement in hardening their homes against hurricane winds and flood proofing. Chief Bill McElligott (Dunedin FD) spoke of the need to have a clear countywide strategy/project to assist citizens in obtaining information, materials and assistance, to harden their own homes. Sponsors could include private sector partners including insurance companies (with rate incentives),

home improvement centers (who could present classes on various measures), volunteer associations and County Emergency Response Teams (CERTS).

- Scheduling – The next LMS meeting is planned for 10:00AM, March 27, 2008. Location is the conference room at TBRPC
- The meeting adjourned at 11:20.