

Minutes of the January 2009 LMS Meeting

Welcome and Introductions – Ed McKenzie, Vice Chair

- A. Attendees introduced themselves to the Working Group
- B. The list of attendees is posted at www.pinellaslms.org.

Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair – Ed

- A. Ed called for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair
- B. Sally Bishop was elected Chair and Ed McKenzie was elected Vice Chair for 2009

LMS Website and Sharepoint Update – Ed

- A. Ed explained how the LMS sharepoint site was originally set up and how it was revised for “read only” access. Working Group members just copy the files they need to update and send them to Ed. He will incorporate them into the master file.
- B. The new project matrix evaluation spreadsheet was displayed on the screen and its use was explained for those who had not yet submitted any projects for evaluation.
- C. The North Redington Beach Mobile Generator project sheet was shown to illustrate how the evaluation process works.
- D. The checklist Ed maintains to track project status showed that 16 entities had submitted 129 projects for evaluation so far. Of those, 123 had their scores accepted and were posted on the Project List at the sharepoint site.
- E. Ed has been asking each submitter, when their scores are accepted, if they think it a good idea for the completed matrices to be posted on the sharepoint site. Responses indicated that most thought it a good idea.

Discussion of project matrix criteria: - Ed

- A. Ed emphasized that this project evaluation process has been a learning process. He has been tracking various evaluation criteria that cause a problem to evaluate.
- B. An example would be the Risk Reduction criteria “Number of People to Benefit”. This criterion uses “Low: Fewer than 10,000”, “Medium: 10,000 to 100,000” and “High: More than 100,000” as the scoring alternatives. The LMS will need to address the scoring for typical projects like replacing an EOC, hardening a hospital, and rebuilding a road.

Challenges to project scores. – Ed

Inasmuch as we haven't set down our criteria standards yet, challenges to scores assigned in accordance with those standards are premature. We have to make the rules before we can challenge how they are applied. Up to this point, Ed has set the rules because someone had to and he has been attempting to treat everyone uniformly.

LMS Goals and Strategies – Ed

- A. As an LMS Working Group, we originally established 3 major Goals and a variety of Objectives under them to guide our mitigation activities. Keeping track of the projects that are linked to specific goal objectives revealed a mismatch.
- B. For the first Goal: Public Education (Increase Public Awareness Regarding Mitigation), there were 5 objectives:
 - 1) “Provide information ...to churches, non-profit and civic organizations.” 0 projects
 - 2) “Provide education...to property and business owners”. 0 projects
 - 3) “Raise the awareness...to the public and elected officials”. 0 projects
 - 4) “Utilize (multi)media...to educate the public”. 1 project.
 - 5) “Provide an ongoing mitigation educational campaign”. 0 projects
- C. For the second Goal: Create a Disaster Resistant Community, there were 11 objectives:
 - 1) “Reduce the number of repetitive loss properties”. 1 project.
 - 2) “Review and improve existing land development regulations”. 0 projects
 - 3) “Protect existing public facilities... and construct new...to be disaster resistant” 66 projects
 - 4) “Enhance building codes to reduce structural failures”. 0 projects
 - 5) “Design all new public buildings as public shelters or for other emergency purposes”. 0 projects
 - 6) “Provide incentives for improving substandard properties...” 1 project.

- 7) "Protect the shoreline by natural and man-made systems..." 3 projects
- 8) "Limit residential density increases..." 0 projects
- 9) "Identify hazardous substances...and measures to limit releases..." 0 projects
- 10) "Retrofit existing schools to public shelter standards..." 1 project.
- 11) "Use mitigation to reduce the economic impacts of natural disasters..." 0 projects
- D. For the third Goal: Coordination of Intergovernmental and Interagency Programs, there were 5 objectives:
 - 1) "Establish frequent coordination among local governments..." 0 projects
 - 2) "Set up a group to evaluate mitigation measures after a disaster..." 0 projects
 - 3) "Develop strategies for municipalities (and others) to coordinate...efforts." 0 projects
 - 4) "Develop strategies to locate funding...to promote mitigation efforts." 0 projects
 - 5) "Develop programs with the business community to promote mitigation..." 0 projects
- E. Projects that were unrelated to any Goals or Objectives 50 projects
- F. We will need to talk about the relevance of our Goals and Objectives in relation to the mismatch with projects we propose for mitigation funding.

Appendix 1 – Multi-Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment – Betti

- A. Betti distributed the final draft of the Appendix 1.
- B. There was some discussion and recognition of the comprehensive, extensive, and spontaneous review provided by Jeffery Dow of Pinellas Park. His comments will be addressed in the final version submitted to the state at the end of the month.

Deliverables for Annual Update to the state: - Ed

- A. The working group approved Appendix 1 for submission to the state at the end of the month, pending the modifications made based on Jeffery Dows' comments.
- B. The working group approved the Accomplishments list (Appendix 10) as it will appear at the end of the month when we forward it.
- C. The working group approved the Project list (Appendix 9) as it will exist at the end of the month when we forward it.
- D. After discussion, the working group approved sorting the project list ranking the projects by raw score and breaking tie scores in favor of the lower cost project. Projects with tie scores will be ranked in reverse order of cost, that is, lowest cost on top.

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for TS Fay. - Betti

- A. While Pinellas County is only eligible for Tier III funding, it is prudent to submit those ranked projects which are ready in the chance that funding is available.
- B. The first applicant workshop is scheduled for FEPA Conference in Orlando February 10th. Additional Application workshops will be scheduled by FDEM within the week. Check the website www.floridadisaster.org/hazard/mitigation. There is also a schedule posted at our sharepoint site.
- C. Those jurisdictions or members interested in applying are strongly encouraged to work with Pinellas County Emergency Management to obtain technical assistance and required LMS support documentation.

Discussion/ Templates from Subcommittee: - Betti

- A. Appendix 4 – Goals and Strategies. Post Appendix 4 on website. New federal requirements make the process very bureaucratic resulting in lots of goals and objectives.
- B. Appendix 5 – Programs, Policies, etc. Using the template and examples provided, please update your jurisdiction/organization's programs and policies section by March. Don't forget programs like low income housing and storm water maintenance.
- C. Appendix 6 – Departmental Responsibilities. Using the template and examples provided, please update your jurisdiction/organization's programs and policies section by March.

Schedule subcommittee Meetings (Public Education/ Public-Private Partnerships)

- A. These will be scheduled in March after County Communications, Economic Development and COAD have been contacted.
- B. It was recommended that a list of associations and organizations to represent private sector and non-traditional partners be developed and that a letter from the Chair inviting representatives to sit on the Working Group be written.

Other Business

- A. Roving LMS Meetings – Ed proposed moving LMS meetings around the county so LMS members could see different members' facilities and share the hosting responsibility.
 - 1) Pinellas County Emergency Management volunteered to host the next meeting at the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
 - 2) Several members volunteered to be hosts in the future.
- B. Ed asked the group if they thought that Project evaluation matrices should be posted on the sharepoint site as soon as the scores were accepted and the idea was accepted without objection.

Next meeting: February 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. @ Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center 400 S. Fort Harrison, Clearwater.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM