

Minutes

PINELLAS COUNTY
LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY MEETING
THURSDAY, May 29, 2014; 1:30 PM
TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Ste. 100, Pinellas Park

1) Welcome & Introductions

Bob Bray (Chair) welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

2) Approval of Minutes April 24, 2014

There were no changes or additions to the minutes of March 2014. Betti Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes. Neal Schwartz seconded. Minutes were approved.

3) Presentation

Mike Gittinger with the National Weather Service gave a presentation on the NOAA program – StormReady, a “grass roots” program focusing on communication and severe weather preparedness in an effort to improve warning, save lives and reduce the costs of disaster. There are six categories of requirements: communications; information reception; hydro - meteorological monitoring, local warning dissemination; community preparedness; and administrative requirements. Mr. Gittinger made the point that it does not take a catastrophic event in the region to have a major impact. In 2012 Tropical Storm Debby (June 23-27) made landfall in Steinhatchee with peak wind 60 mph. Yet there were 9 fatalities and \$309 million in damages. Later that year, Hurricane Isaac (August 21 to Sept. 1) a category 1 hurricane with a maximum of 80 mph winds resulted in 44 fatalities and \$2 billion in damages. Then there are the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons. Mr. Gittinger showed clips from the Project Phoenix Video which highlights the potential impacts of a (fictitious) category 5 hurricane making landfall in Tampa Bay,

There are many obvious benefits to the StormReady program; however, in addition to increased community preparedness, the program also offers 25 CRS points and enhanced community image. To date, the following entities are Storm Ready:

Oldsmar

Pinellas County

Pinellas Park

Treasure Island

Eckerd College

Busch Gardens

Home Shopping Network

University of South Florida

University of Tampa

He also discussed the TsunamiReady Program which is very similar to StormReady and provides additional CRS points and subsequent insurance discounts. There is some redundancy in the two programs; however, the challenge in the Tsunami Ready Program is the identification of safe areas and immediate warning procedures.

Bob Bray indicated that this is an excellent program and is not difficult to achieve and encouraged other communities to investigate the website/ program. The NWS is very helpful and can provide assistance.

The presentation and link to the website will be put on the LMS website: www.pinellaslms.org

4) Sub-Committees/Assignments

a. Appendix 1- Multi-Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment –

Betti Johnson reported that the models which were used in 2009 are no longer used. New models are being sought that will satisfy the County's needs. In addition, we are updating the data and will produce new maps which will provide more digital capability for population and property vulnerability analyses. Tsunamis will be added.

b. Appendix 2 – Workgroup Membership –

Dayton Saltsman has updated the membership list and reached out to find appropriate representation for organizations and municipalities who have not been attending. There was discussion about how to increase and enhance the membership and attendance. Participation is a requirement of the LMS as well as the CRS Programs.

We also need to broaden our membership to include additional community partners:

The following will be contacted:

- COAD/ LTRO (Recover Pinellas) – Betti Johnson
- Business/ Economic Development – Stacy Swank
- School Board – Stephanie Waters
- DCF - List of ALFs/ Nursing Homes – Stephanie Waters
- CRS Coordinators – Bob Bray
- Homeowners Assocs. – Betti Johnson
- SWFWMD – Betti Johnson
- Building Officials and Floodplain Managers- Neal Schwartz

Neal stated that the real benefit of participation is not potential funding or CRS points, it's about saving lives and reduction potential losses.

c. Appendix 4 – LMS Goals & Objectives –

Bob Bray reported that the Goals and Objectives Sub-Committee met and that they felt that the structure of the Goals & Objectives was still viable. Some additions to it would be necessary to address issues of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise, but that could fit within the existing structure. Paula Cohen would report back next month.

d. Appendix 5 – Local Programs, Policies and Capabilities –

Bob Bray again thanked all that have submitted their updates to Appendix 5 and urged all others to complete their update immediately. He also asked that if nothing was changed for their local community's section, to please send an e-mail indicating that there was no change.

e. Appendix 6 – Local Departmental Responsibilities in Mitigation Implementation –

Bob Bray told the committee that he was working on the final document. If you have any updated, please send in immediately and if nothing was to change for their local community's section, to please send an e-mail indicating that there was no change.

f. Appendix 7 – Community Participation and Outreach –

Betti Johnson – Reported that the sub-committee will meet again in June to complete a report for incorporation in the revised LMS. We are continuing to focus on the following FEMA specific requirements:

- 1) Engage stakeholders in the LMS Committee which reflect the "whole community" (See Membership Report)
- 2) Engage the public to allow the opportunity for input/comment into the plan development – There was discussion regarding the types of outreach to solicit public input. Rick Stiff with St. Petersburg indicated that while participation was not outstanding, we could hold the (4) public workshops throughout the county as we did last time. The committee agreed but thought we should make presentations to different associations and groups such as the Building Officials and City Managers. _ and _ will make arrangements. These two presentations may also help with membership participation.
- 3) Fully capture the Mitigation Outreach efforts of the county and communities and stakeholder partners

Recommendations:

- 1) Meet with Tom Iovino of Pinellas County Communications to determine the feasibility of the following:

- a. On-line Video describing the LMS purpose and update and provide an opportunity via the website for public comment
 - b. Host an online Town Hall meeting regarding mitigation and the LMS
- 2) Prior to next meeting, make an effort to recruit new members to the LMS Committee including Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development, as well as public and private sector stakeholders who are not currently participating. Stacy Swank will work with Bob, Neal and Stephanie to develop an information piece for the private sector and economic development community. Stacey volunteered Bob to speak at the NEXT Economic Development Practitioners meeting about the LMS. Meeting will be 6-26-14 @ the Epicenter.
- 3) Each community should follow their procedures regarding public participation prior to taking before the Councils for adoption.

The update and Outreach Report is due to the county by June 30, 2014

- g. Appendix 11 – Potential Funding Sources – This section will be updated as appropriate to include changes in the funding sources, information links and requirements.
- h. Appendix 12 – Critical Facilities –
Betti Johnson reported that TBRPC will update the critical infrastructure inventories and maps based on State and local assets and facilities. Once completed, she will reach out for local review to ensure that local critical facilities are reflected. Due July 31, 2014
- i. Appendix 13 – Repetitive Property Loss Inventory –
Discussion regarding the inventory of repetitive loss properties and Repetitive Loss Areas
 - a. Bob Bray mentioned that the FEMA is updating the list which may change what the Florida Division of Emergency Management had distributed to him earlier in the year. Betti Johnson reported that we need to update the list but, more importantly identify the “areas” and the appropriate mitigation strategy for each area (action plan). It is important that the LMS make the connection between the risk and vulnerability analysis to the strategy and to the projects each community identifies.
 - b. Neal Schwartz with South Pasadena stated that maybe we are asking the wrong questions. It is not just about repetitive loss properties. Perhaps we should be asking “what is your typical BFE in your community?” and “if we had a category 1 hurricane, what would the impact be?” In South Pasadena, there are only 2 RLPs. However, the entire community is within the Category 1 and 2 storm surge vulnerability zones.
 - c. Bob Ballou reported that FDEM will be hosting an FMA Grant workshop for Repetitive Loss Properties in Shore Acres. The next applications cycle is open until June 6, 2014. (Neal noted that there is a new construction (mitigation) project in Shore Acres. The original home was demolished and a new elevated home is being constructed.)
- j. Inclusion of CRS Floodplain Planning Process –
The sub committee has not met yet. The 10 step process for CRS/Floodplain Management Planning Summary was distributed at the meeting. The Chair, Lynn Rosetti had a conflict and could not attend the meeting. Bob Bray indicated that we will continue to determine what can be incorporated into the LMS. The LMS/CRS Incorporation Report will be given at the next meeting.

5) Conferences

- a. Governor’s Hurricane Conference was held May 11 – 16, 2014 in Orlando, FL. Betti Johnson gave a brief report.

6) Marketing Mitigation/ LMS – Additional discussion on LMS Participation and Outreach:

- a. 1-sheet summary - Stephanie
- b. Brochure or pamphlet – Betti will try to find an earlier piece
- c. Meeting of the city managers in June in Largo - Stephanie
- d. Include CRS Coordinators on the LMS mailing list. Neal will check CFM representing the cities.
- e. Schedule (4) public meetings for the county with Gordon and the Communications Department
- f. Stacy Swank can assist with social media – Twitter

- g. Betti Johnson will coordinate also with Tom Iovino, Communications to follow up on social media, town hall meetings, and potential video
 - h. Gordon Beardslee will coordinate with TBRPC on the website to include a place for public comments and feedback
 - i. Presentation will be made to the quarterly meeting of ED practitioners - Thursday, June 26 (Stacy)
 - j. Gordon suggested that Municipalities/ County make presentations to your Local Planning Agencies (LPAs) and incorporate them in the update process
- 7) Appendix 9 (projects) and 10 (successes) will be due in early fall. This will be incorporated into the annual update as well as the 5-year update.
- 8) Gulfport Hurricane Seminar will be held tonight at 7:00 pm. (It was suggested that LMS members share their events to everyone so that adjacent communities could participate.)
- 9) Next meeting will be held Friday, June 27th 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
- 10) Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

NEXT LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY MEETING:

Friday, June 27, 2014
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd, Suite 100
Pinellas Park