

PINELLAS COUNTY
LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY MEETING
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2014; 1:30 PM
TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Ste. 100, Pinellas Park

MINUTES

- 1) **Bob Bray welcomed the members and each member introduced themselves.**
- 2) **Approval of Minutes August 20, 2014**
Motion to approve: Neal Schwartz
Seconded: Renea Vincent
Motion approved.
- 3) **Presentation – Pinellas County CRS Project and the Public Information Program (PIP)**
Bob introduced Rahim Harji, Pinellas County Planning Dept., and Lisa Foster and Cece McKiernan of Jones Edmunds, Inc.
Rahim stated that the Pinellas County Environmental Section has contracted with Edmund Jones to evaluate their CRS/Floodplain Management program in light of the new CRS Manual and to make recommendations on how the County can improve their rating.

Cece indicated that one of the key initiatives is the Program for Public Information (PPI). One of the benefits for developing a PPI in addition to compiling the public information outreach activities and to capitalize on what we are already doing. There are significant additional points with PPI as the jurisdiction can “count” activities of stakeholder groups and cities, etc. This dove-tails with the current LMS activities. One of the most compelling aspects of the PPI is the stakeholders – non-governmental entities – and making our outreach more user-friendly.

Those of you are going through CRS as part of your floodplain management planning, know you must go through all the steps (10 step planning process). Edmund Jones and Pinellas County will go through the LMS to make sure it meets the requirements to maximize the points for the LMS. (Activity 510)

There was significant discussion regarding the PPI. Rene Vincent stated that the most important component of the PPI (activity 320) is you have to have the PPI Committee and the committee must include at least 50% membership from outside of the county government.

Noah Taylor said that the city of St. Petersburg is also doing a PPI. Currently, they have a committee of 10 (personnel and stakeholders).

Rahim stated that they held their first meeting right before the LMS meeting. It included the public information officer, Emergency Management, planning department, environmental section, representatives from homeowner associations, the regional planning council and a representative from insurance industry. They hope to expand the committee but are in development stages now.

It was asked if they envisioned the cities participating in the PPI in the future. Cece indicated that it had been discussed; however, for now, it was limited to see if this would work. A requirement maybe that each city representative would need to “bring a match” – a stakeholder from the community.

Bob stated that a regional and/or countywide PPI was discussed at the LMS last year. However, the size of the committee due to membership requirements was overwhelming. There would also be quorum issues.

Neal stated that smaller communities have citizen committees such as the Planning Advisory Committees which could be used.

Stephanie Waters stated that “maybe it’s not a one size fits all. Smaller communities could band together” in order to fulfill the requirements and ensure adequate representation of the community.

- 4) **Review of the LMS Update DRAFT document** (A link was sent to committee members to the draft plan components. Please review if you have not done so.

Basic Plan – outlines the planning process for the Update of the LMS incorporating the 10-step planning process. Betti Johnson, TBRPC went over the 10-steps and explained how each was addressed.

a. Appendix 1- Vulnerability Identification & Assessment

Betti indicated that work is progressing on the update to Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) for the LMS. There was a need to go back and review our methodologies in order to meet new federal and state requirements. Based on our discussions with Jamie Price with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), they will be looking for probability (typically based on history) and vulnerability for each hazard for each jurisdiction. The draft of Appendix 1 was sent to the State Mitigation Officer last week for preliminary review to ensure it meets their requirements.

Currently, the Draft does not include discussion regarding emerging hazards related to Climate Change. For this update, it was decided to document current work with the intention to identify adaptation strategies in the next update. This section will be emailed to members by October 10, 2014.

b. Appendix 2 – Workgroup Membership

Dayton Saltsman, Chair of the Workgroup Subcommittee indicated that he continues to update the membership list and seek more stakeholders to (1) insure compliance by all jurisdictions and (2) encourage more stakeholder participation from organizations outside of the government sector. Betti Johnson, TBRPC asked each member to review this section to ensure accuracy as well as to reach out in their communities to identify interested partners.

c. Appendix 3 – Conflict Resolution – No change.

d. Appendix 4 – LMS Goals & Objectives

A draft of the LMS Goals and Objectives is available for review. Betti indicated that additional objectives will be added based on the discussion of Climate Change.

e. Appendix 5 – Local Programs, Policies and Capabilities

Appendix 5 has been updated and reformatted; however, there are four (4) communities which have not provided their tables (Tarpon Springs, St. Pete Beach, Madeira Beach and Safety Harbor). It is extremely important that all are complete within the next couple of weeks to meet our deadlines. Please contact Betti Johnson with TBRPC if you need any assistance.

f. Appendix 6 – Local Departmental Responsibilities in Mitigation Implementation

Appendix 6 has been updated and reformatted; however, there are six (6) communities which have not provided their tables (St. Pete Beach, South Pasadena, Redington Beach, Madeira Beach, Kenneth City and Belleair Shore). It is extremely important that all are complete within the next couple of weeks to meet our deadlines. Please contact Betti Johnson with TBRPC if you need any assistance.

g. Appendix 7 – Community Participation and Outreach

Appendix 7 was re-written to provide additional information for communities – especially CRS communities. A shared document was created so that each jurisdiction and community stakeholder can input their outreach activities. The link for this site is:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HPmkhJBpXU44n8GbXSdg8ckT21EV69xPLVt5OmfQSM/edit?pli=1#gid=575330625>

To date, many but not all jurisdictions have input their public information efforts. Please take the time to input your activities so that we can demonstrate a county-wide comprehensive

effort in this area. Municipalities and stakeholders are encouraged to take advantage of the county-wide efforts and capitalize on and contribute to what is being done at the county level including E-Lert Newsletter, County Connections, the Preparedness/Mitigation Video Library, E-Town Hall meetings, online surveys, etc. The County Public Information Program will complement the program and provide benefits countywide. Gordon also said that he would let the community know when the DRAFT LMS is online for their comments on the County Facebook page.

g. Appendix 8 – Project Evaluation Form – no change.

h. Appendix 9 – Initiatives & Appendix 10 – Mitigation Accomplishments & Successes

Bob Bray reminded the members that we must update our Projects Lists and amend the accomplishments section of the LMS as part of the annual update. To submit additional projects, you will need to complete the Project Evaluation Form explained in Appendix 8 and has been sent to everyone. Please send a completed project evaluation form for each new project, an updated Appendix 9 for your community and an updated Appendix 10. All submittals should be sent to Bob at Bbray@Pinellas-Park.com by October 30, 2015. Should there be any questions call him at 541-0704.

i. Appendix 12 – Critical Facilities

The list of critical facilities continues to be updated and a risk assessment of the completed inventory is nearing completion. The actual list will be submitted to local jurisdictions for review; however, it will not be posted due to security concerns. The maps and tables will be part of the LMS. The draft section including maps is online.

j. Appendix 13 – Repetitive Property Loss Inventory

The most recent RPL inventory was provided by FEMA Region IV. Several local jurisdictions have identified RPL areas, and forwarded to TBRPC. However, due to the lack of consistency with which these areas were identified, it has been decided to use a more common approach of mapping the repetitive loss properties to identify “clusters” to indicated areas. The County has also identified “hot spots” of historical flooding. This will be shared for the LMS. If any local communities want a copy of the RL Database or their community, contact Bob Bray.

k. Appendix 14 will contain the County and Municipal Resolutions Adopting the LMS. This will occur after the State has reviewed the document and all issues have been resolved. The completed document will be sent to FEMA in May 2015.

l. Appendix 15 is an optional element for local Floodplain Management Action Plans to be included as part of your local adoption process.

5) Other Business

Bob Ballou asked about the role of the LMS Group with the Disaster Housing mission and there was a discussion on the implementation of the proposed Disaster Housing Ordinance. Gordon indicated that the role of the LMS was not in the actual ordinance, but was stated as on the BOCC Agenda item. He will remove that reference; although he hoped that the LMS Committee would serve as an advisory committee if disaster housing becomes necessary.

It was asked that if a community adopts the ordinance, would the county “house” any congregate or interim housing? Gordon indicated that yes, it would be a county-wide effort.

In the PDRP , Disaster Housing is discussed and the location of potential sites including School board properties, existing or abandoned MHPs, etc. Coordinating where community sites would be appropriate may be a role for the LMS. In addition, MOUs will need to be in place regarding future community sites.

The Model ordinance does allow with a permit, residents to put temporary housing on a single family lot, if there is sufficient room and operating utilities.

Neal made a recommendation was made that the PPCLB should be enlisted to establish a consistent process for the disaster housing.

6) Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

NEXT PROPOSED LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY MEETING:

Thursday October 30, 2014
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Ste. 100,
Pinellas Park