



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor & Council Member, City Manager

From: Shirley Dresch, City Clerk, CRS Coordinator

Re: Evaluation of Implementation of Local Mitigation Strategy Plan

Date: August 25, 2009

Resolution No. 04-12 adopted the October, 2003 revision of the Local Mitigation Strategy Plan developed for Pasco County, Florida. At least annually, the Hazard Mitigation Committee (HMC) meets to review and update the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) as necessary. For credit under the Community Rating System an annual report to evaluate progress toward implementing the action plan's objectives and recommendations is necessary.

The Pasco County Local Mitigation Strategy Committee meets in January of every year to review and approve the implementation of the plan's objectives during the past year. However, the LMS must be revised every 5 years, which required that it be revised by August 29, 2009. Therefore, the revision process formally began in October 2008 with the Hazard Mitigation (LMS) Committee being charged with developing the update to the LMS document. After numerous meetings and opportunities for receiving public comment, the 2009 revised plan was transmitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and FEMA and found to be in compliance. Regulations require that the City Councils and the BOCC approve and adopt the revised unified LMS prior to receiving final FEMA approval. Our City Council adopted it under Resolution 09-09 on August 11, 2009.

In addition, the Community Rating System (CRS) requires an annual evaluation report on the progress made in the past year towards implementing the current plan's objectives and/or recommendations.

As Port Richey's representative on the HMC team review of the LMS plan, I have prepared this report which specifically addresses our projects and responsibilities under the existing plan for 2008/2009.

BACKGROUND

The State of Florida, Department of Community Affairs and the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) entered into an agreement on April 7, 1998 for the purpose of developing the Local Mitigation Strategy. On July 14, 1998, the BOCC approved subcontracts with the six cities of Pasco County to develop a single unified Local Mitigation Strategy for Pasco County. The establishment of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee was formalized on July 14, 1998. The committee is comprised of one voting representative from each city as well as one appointed from Pasco County.

A Technical Working Group was responsible for developing the Local Mitigation Strategy, as well as any future amendments. The group was comprised of several members of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee, the Pasco County Office of Emergency Management staff, and support staff from county and city departments as deemed necessary by the Mitigation Planning committee.

In order to ensure that a cross-section of the community was involved, the establishment of a Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee and its appointees was formalized by the BOCC on July 14, 1998. Members of this committee included representatives from the following agencies, organizations, associations and businesses: 1) representatives from each of the seven member governments, , and 2) representatives from the following agencies and organizations, Suncoast Harvest, Hernando-Pasco Hospice, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Counsel, St. Leo University, State Attorney's office, Pasco County Sheriff's Office, The Harbors, Pasco County GIS, Pasco County MPO, Salvation Army, American Medical Response, Verizon Florida, Inc. Pasco County Communications, Hernando County Emergency Management, United Way of Pasco, Roe Insurance, John Stanbury, New Port Richey, ELAMP, SWFWMD, Davita, PHCC, Pasco County Emergency Services, and Pasco County Tourist Development ,

Public information and participation was solicited and available from the beginning of the process.

The purpose of the Local Mitigation Strategy is to establish an ongoing process that will make hazard mitigation part of the daily function of the entire community. The LMS process assessed vulnerabilities of the community to different types of hazards, identified a comprehensive list of plans, programs and projects to

decrease the magnitude of those vulnerabilities and prioritized the implementation of these initiatives.

A REVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVES

MITIGATION RESPONSIBILITIES

This section of the Local Mitigation Strategy Plan describes the personnel involved in the response, recovery, and planning & hazard mitigation.

The city adopted Resolution No. 07-03 which identified a unified utilization of procedures and plans already in place for purposes of emergency management designed to mitigate hazard impacts to the community during a disaster

Building & Zoning Department

The Building & Zoning Department continues it's preparation for disaster preparedness coordination. It also administers the issuance of permits and enforcement of all building codes. In addition, the city recently enacted a new Land Development Code which now contains a stormwater management plan for new construction.

The Building Department also provides site specific information and assistance to residents, including map information, flood protection advice, and information on selecting and dealing with contractors. The department also participates and provides guidance to homeowners interested in submitting applications for grants to mitigate their properties.

City Clerk

During the past year, the administrative offices continued the preparation and mailing of educational materials to city residents regarding hurricane evacuation procedures, a list of shelters, materials available for property protection, the flood hazard area, flood warning procedures, flood safety procedures, insurance and financial assistance information, property protection, permits, substantial improvements, damage requirements, and drainage system maintenance. Flood protection references are also maintained at the Regency Park branch of the Pasco County Library System. Guides for flood protection are also available at City Hall in the reception area of the Building Department. The newly reinstated City Newsletter will once again carry articles in each edition on one of the 10 essential outreach topics.

This department also works closely with the Department of Community Affairs to administer and monitor the mitigation grant program at the local level.

Public Works

The Public Works Department continues to monitor and maintain the city stormwater systems. They also identify new mitigation projects that may become necessary for those systems. In recent years the city has adopted a Stormwater Management Plan. New stormwater facilities will continue to be constructed throughout the city as funds become available. In 2007 the city enacted a Stormwater Utility Fee to finance those projects

COMMUNITY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The city has continued to implement the objectives of the LMS Guiding Principles by:

Ensuring new development and redevelopment complies with all applicable federal, state and local regulations.

Participation in the annual review and update of the Local Mitigation Strategy as a member of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee every year which included participation during 2008/09 in the required 5 year update of the plan..

Encourage mitigation initiatives in the Coastal High Hazard Area.

Development and implementation of the Stormwater Management Program and Stormwater Utility.

Assisting residents in pursuing available grant funds for mitigation of repetitive loss properties.

Maintenance and improvement of existing drainage system facilities

Requiring all new development and redevelopment to regulate the rate and volume of stormwater runoff.

Regulation of on-site management of stormwater runoff.

Regulation of new development and redevelopment to reduce property damage caused by flooding.

REPETITIVE LOSS AREA

The City of Port Richey had 134 repetitive loss properties after the floods of 1993, 1996 & 1999. Since that time we have embarked on a program to

encourage property owners to mitigate their structures through applications for grant funds. From 1999 to 2009 32 homes were either torn down and rebuilt or elevated through FMA grants. Another 2 are currently finishing their reconstruction. In July of 2007, the city acquired its first repetitive loss property with FMA grant funds. The structure on the property was demolished and a retention pond was built to assist the nearby property owners with flood mitigation.

PROJECTS/PROGRAMS LIST:

A Review of Port Richey's portion of the LMS Project/Program Action Items:

Installation of buoys off the coast of Port Richey which are linked to a satellite that can detect extreme tidal surge. Installation of three siren PA warning systems.

Status: Buoys with sirens installed 25 miles offshore of Port Richey. Tide gauge installed at Brasher Park. All operational. PROJECT COMPLETED

.....

Port Richey Lift Station Flood Proofing Project Phase 1 (48 Lift Stations)
Elevation of controls and flood proofing of manholes with three foot rings at 48 lift stations, all located below the base flood elevation.

Status: Five additional manholes have been flood proofed bringing the total to 19 out of 48. The remainder will be accomplished as soon as funding becomes available. The elevation of controls will be addressed as funding is identified in the future.

.....

Generators for Port Richey Critical Facilities. Purchase of 25kw emergency generator for fire station

Status: Two generators have been acquired. PROJECT COMPLETED

.....

Port Richey Repetitive Loss Mitigation 2007/08. 15 grants issued

Status: 4 property owners declined to accept grants upon notification of award, 1 property was acquired with the FMA funds, 8 homes were completed and received certificates of occupancy, two are in the various stages of completion.

.....

Port Richey Repetitive Loss Mitigation 2008/09.

16 additional property owners submitted applications for FMA grants.

Status: Four of the 16 were deemed to fall below the threshold for cost-effectiveness. Three others are awaiting submittal of elevation certificates before they are processed further and the remainder are still in the process of consideration by the Department of Community Affairs for submittal to FEMA.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The city should continue their responsibility of implementing the Plan's ongoing recommendations.

Physical projects should be accomplished as soon as funding becomes available.

The city should continue its efforts to encourage and assist homeowners to seek grant funding to mitigate their homes.

The city should continue its publicity efforts on flood and stormwater management

DISSEMINATION

This report is being sent to the newspapers that cover City Hall (the St. Petersburg Times and the Suncoast News). Copies of the report and the LMS Plan are available for review at City Hall, 6333 Ridge Rd. A notice of its availability is being posted on the City's website and at City Hall.

This Plan Report presented to and accepted by the City Council of the City of Port Richey, Florida this _____ day of September, 2009.

ATTEST;

Shirley Dresch, City Clerk

Richard Rober, Mayor