

Minutes

Indian River County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group Meeting

Indian River County Emergency Operations Center
4225 43rd Avenue
Vero Beach, FL 32967
October 16, 2009
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

John King, Chairman of the Indian River County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. welcoming all attendees. He introduced our guest, Ms. Laura Herbert, who is with the Florida Division of Emergency Management. All attendees were then asked to introduce themselves.

The City of Vero Beach, City of Sebastian, City of Fellsmere, Town of Orchid, and Town of Indian River Shores were each represented at today's meeting. It was noted that their participation is very important to assist with maintaining the LMS plan and project list so we can all be eligible for potential future funding.

Mr. King stated most everyone has been participating with getting their projects in and making sure the list is updated. He further stated there is a small window of time after today's meeting to add projects to the list.

Etta LoPresti, Indian River County Emergency Management Planner, distributed and discussed the updated project list. Currently there are 29 previously ranked projects, 12 currently unranked projects and 10 previous projects that have been purged from the list. Ms. LoPresti stated that FEMA is requesting some additional information be placed on project lists and that some plans are being denied for lack of this information. Ms. LoPresti requested that everyone review their project(s) appearing on the updated list and make sure all missing information is provided in order to make sure our project list is complete.

Ms. LoPresti asked Laura Herbert whether FDEM or FEMA will accept unranked projects. Ms. Herbert stated that as long as the county has a ranking procedure in place it does not matter when the projects are ranked. Mr. King stated that it is much easier to rank projects prior to a disaster because staff is so overwhelmed with dealing with the after effects of a disaster that there is no time for ranking the projects afterwards. Ms. LoPresti also noted that our current ranking process can be quite time consuming.

Ms. LoPresti explained that she purged the withdrawn projects from the list which resulted in each of the remaining projects moving up on the list. She asked for

permission to change the number sequence on the list to be consecutive now that certain project numbers no longer appear on the list. Jason Nunemaker made the motion to approve the request; Stan Boling seconded the motion, with the motion unanimously passed. Ms. LoPresti asked Laura Herbert for a recommendation on the best way to deal with ranking the currently unranked projects and assimilating them into the list with the ranked projects. Ms. Herbert recommended re-ranking the entire project list.

Mr. King discussed the scoring committee and the interpretation of the ranked projects. He noted that it is not important to have the project high on the list but to get the projects on the list. Laura Herbert agreed and reiterated that in order to get funding the project **must** be on the list. The ranking is a FEMA requirement and it identifies what a county's top priorities are. Projects are chosen by cost effectiveness, what funding is available, and the number of people affected. Ms. LoPresti suggested that she look into finding a less cumbersome way of scoring the projects and she will bring it to the group at the next meeting. Additionally, she mentioned that the county's LMS website (<http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/LMS/Index.htm>) provides a list with a sampling of the types of projects that can and cannot be funded as well as a comprehensive list of possible funding sources.

Laura Herbert informed the committee that the process has come a long way since the 2004/2005 hurricanes but there are limitations and still no quick turnarounds. Ideal projects for HMGP funding are projects that might not be done normally. She went on to explain that if a project needed immediate funding, HMGP would not be the best route to pursue. There are different ways to meet the 25% match like an In-kind match or it can be matched with other projects that the county is already funding.

In addition to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), there are a number of other grant funding opportunities, such as: Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Repetitive Flood Claims, and the Severe Repetitive Loss Grant Programs. Ms. Herbert will forward information that can be posted on the county website regarding how the projects are reviewed and determined for funding at the state level. To get a project approved it must be very clear on what hazards affects what jurisdictions. She then discussed the FEMA LMS plan approval process. FDEM will review our LMS plan and either make recommendations for improvement or send it on to FEMA for final review. FEMA will conduct their review and once FEMA approves our LMS, our Board of County Commissioners must adopt a resolution approving the updated LMS plan. The jurisdictions will then have 1-year to officially adopt the updated LMS plan. If any jurisdiction does not adopt the LMS plan within 1-year they will not be eligible for HMGP monies. Private non-profits are eligible for submitting projects but the jurisdiction for which the project lies must be the representative officially submitting the application.

Brian Nolan noted that it is very important for everyone to get their comments to Etta LoPresti so the project list can get completed. Ms. LoPresti explained that there is a time crunch on turning in the project list. Recognizing that everyone's time is valuable, much of the correspondence can be done via email with only a couple of meetings over the coming months. The plan is to get some ideas on project prioritization from Laura Herbert and bring them back to the working group at the November meeting. By the December meeting it is hoped that the group can vote on the final project list and the "Draft" LMS plan to be submitted for FDEM for approval prior to submission to FEMA.

Brian Nolan informed everyone that the next LMS meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 18, 2009 and the following meeting will be Wednesday, December 16, 2009 (both at 10:00 a.m.). John King reiterated how important it is for everyone to get their projects submitted and ranked because there is no time to handle them after a disaster.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting of the Indian River County Unified Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group is tentatively set for **November 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

**** (Please Note: the meeting has been rescheduled to Friday, November 20, 2009)**