

Minutes

**Indian River County Local Mitigation Strategy
Working Group Meeting**

Indian River County Emergency Operations Center
4225 43rd Avenue
Vero Beach, FL 32967
September 21, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Tad Stone, Chairman of the Indian River County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Mr. Stone welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Etta LoPresti, Vice-Chairman of the Indian River County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group, started the meeting by informing the group that Indian River County was allotted grant funding but only two agencies (City of Fellsmere and Sebastian) submitted application forms for the HMGP grant. To date, the agencies have not received any notices of award for those projects.

Jason Nunemaker, Fellsmere City Manager, gave an update that they are completing the project in phases. They are using \$500,000 from St. Johns River Water Management District as well as applying for section 319 funds. He stated that if the HMGP funds come in they will put back the section 319 funds. The water quality project will have a substantial impact and will reduce potential flooding up to six-inches.

Don Dexter, City of Vero Beach, gave an update on their Vero Beach Police Department roof project. He explained that they did receive a notice of award for their project, have a contract in place, and they are in the design phase now. He said in his experience so far, they were great to work with and that they did a great job in communicating with them throughout the process.

Mrs. LoPresti explained that based on our allocation of funds, the two projects that were submitted will either be fully funded or at least partially, so she encouraged everyone in the future to submit applications and over apply for funding. Mrs. LoPresti then introduced Amy Peterson, FDEM Mitigation Planner on the conference bridge to give a brief Webinar presentation on the current grant funding opportunities. Ms. Peterson informed that the two grants she will be discussing is Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant. The total amount of funds that will be distributed under the FY 2018 PDM Grant Program will be \$235,200,000. The local government must apply as the sub-applicant and there is a 75/25 cost share for this grant. The list of eligible projects was discussed.

The FMA grant has \$160 million allocated for eligible projects and this grant also has a 75/25 cost share. The applicant for this grant is the State, so the sub-applicant is the county or local government and must have a FEMA approved mitigation plan. The list of eligible projects for this grant was discussed and are fairly similar to the PDM grant projects. Applications are submitted through the FEMA E-Grant Application Portal (<https://www.fema.gov/e-grant-application-access>). The process is to logon to the E-Grant system, submit your application to the State, and they will submit to FEMA for approval.

The application start date is October 1, 2018 and if you are a sub-applicant, the cutoff date to have your application turned into FDEM is November 28, 2018 at 5:00pm. All applications are due to FEMA by January 31, 2019.

Rob Perry, Building Official with Indian River Shores, asked if they County helps with the 75/25 cost share and Mrs. LoPresti informed him that they do not. Mr. Nunemaker did suggest that that could always match grants or request a reduction in cost match due to a hardship, if needed. Mr. Perry suggested that departments could try to plan ahead for the 25% cost share for projects in upcoming budget years.

Mr. Stone & Mrs. LoPresti thanked everyone for attending the meeting and informed them that the next scheduled meeting will be Friday, January 18, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.