

Minutes

Indian River County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group Meeting

Indian River County Emergency Operations Center
4225 43rd Avenue
Vero Beach, FL 32967
November 17, 2022
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Ryan Lloyd, Vice-Chairman of the Indian River County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Lloyd welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He let the group know that this meeting was originally scheduled for December, but we were not sure what the HMGP status was going to be for Hurricane Ian, also there was a HMGP in North Florida that has an application deadline of December 2, so with that in mind we decided to go ahead and conduct the meeting ahead of time to give anyone a chance to put projects on the list that could be considered. There were no objections by email to moving the meeting to be held today.

Mr. Lloyd went on to review of DR-4673 Hurricane Ian. September 29, 2022 was major disaster declaration, November 13, 2022 was the 45-day allocation estimate, January 27, 2023 is the County Allocation snapshot. The week of January 30, 2023, it is projected that FDEM is going to publish the HMGP notice of funding and the application period will begin. We don't know where Indian River County will fall on the tier list, but word is that it will be a very tidy sum of HMGP funding available. On May 1, 2023, the application period will close for HMGP. If you have any projects, this is a good time to start thinking about where they are at and look to get them on the list. He went on to explain that our next scheduled meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 16, 2023, the timing of that meeting falls in line with the next HMGP notice for Ian, however if there is an HMGP for Nicole we may need to change the meeting date. Mitigation projects related to flooding would probably be high on the list for FEMA consideration. He said that we will keep our eyes open for Nicole for HMGP. Mr. Lloyd went on to explain that FEMA will be coming in today at 1:30pm to do beach assessments. We did assessments for damage with FDEM and FEMA a couple days ago.

Mr. Lloyd went on to review the current project prioritization list and asked if anyone had any status changes with their projects, any projects in the works or close to being funded or if anything needs to be taken off the list, to which there were none. The next order of business was new projects for consideration, to which there were 2 that we are aware of. Mr. Richard Szyrka, IRC Public Works Director, presented his first project, which is retrofit for the courthouse. We are proposing a

shutter project to protect the windows from wind, rain and debris damage. The project is anticipated to cost about \$550,000, the upper floors will be electric shutters that can be closed remotely, the bottom will be manual. They would like to keep the aesthetic of the courthouse and not make it look like it's a bunker. The courthouse is used right after the storm. They have to do first appearances, because we had power issues at the courthouse and just came to light, they use it more than people are aware of during storms. They are adamant about the courthouse being ready immediately following a storm. Mr. Lloyd asked if there were any questions or comments on the project and informed the group that the point score was 79. Alexandra "Lexi" Nicholas asked what the courthouse has now in place. Mr. Szpyrka responded with saying they have nothing currently. The question was asked about how many windows needed to be shuttered and Mr. Szpyrka said that there are 43-44 windows and they will be electronically wired into the generator, so no one will have to put the shutters up and we can still open them if we lose power. Mr. Szpyrka said that we should consider talking to DEM about including the town halls and city halls because without those buildings we can't function and they are essentially critical facilities. A motion was made to add the Courthouse shutter project to the Project Prioritization List by Rachel Ivey, Emergency Management Planner II, with a second from Lexi Nicholas, Emergency Management Planner I. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Szpyrka went on to discuss the second project that they were bringing to the group. He said it goes along with what we discussed earlier. The generators that we have in the County Admin Complex, Buildings A & B and the IRC Health Department, only operate with minimal power. They do not power the AC, they do not power all the computers, they only power emergency lights and at the Health Department it keeps the refrigerator's running and certain areas such as the IT room. It does not run the entire building. Our proposal is to install generators that run the entire building not only the chillers but the building themselves. Because of the critical services that are in these buildings that are required immediately after a storm. The building themselves were built to withstand the storms, so with that they are adding 4 generators at a cost of 1.5 million, they will be different size generators, sized for the capacity of each building. Mr. Lloyd opened the floor up to the group to questions, comments or concerns. Ms. Ivey added that IT stays over in those buildings during an activation and without IT we can't run over here in the EOC. The question was asked what the project scored, to which the answer was 64. Another question was raised asking about the fuel capacity. Mr. Szpyrka responded by saying they will have enough fuel to run the building for at least 5 days. A motion was made to add the generator project to the Project Prioritization List by Mr. Sean Lieske, IRC Utilities Director, with a second from Karen Rackard, IRC Emergency Services. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lloyd asked if there were any other projects that need to be presented. Mr. Richard Mutterback, City of Vero Beach, said that they have one but they just haven't had a chance to do the project list sheet due to the storm. They are trying to do some hardening of City Hall that will include doors, windows etc. It will come in

around \$800,000. Similar to the City of Vero Beach Police Department (VBPD) Project, which was HMGP. Mr. Mutterback said that he will get the sheet to Mr. Lloyd before the next meeting. He went on to explain that the VBPD project included the roof, but the City Hall project doesn't need the roof, since it was already done the year before last.

Mr. Lloyd asked if there were any more projects that should be considered. City of Vero Beach is going to take a 2nd look at Conn, they were denied last time but we are going to look again. Mr. Lloyd said that if anyone has any mitigation projects, now is a good time to start looking at them.

Mr. Lloyd concluded the meeting by asking if there were any more questions or concerns. There were none. Ms. Ivey asked that if there were any changes in the contact list, you can submit those at any time. Mr. Lloyd said that we will get the updated project list posted on the website and send everyone a copy.

The next scheduled meeting will be December 8, 2022 at 10:00am.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.