



Indian River County Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan

Planning Meeting Summary

November 16, 2011, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm
Division of Emergency Management,
Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
4225 43rd Ave, Vero Beach, FL



I. New Member Overview

Tina Jou of Calvin, Giordano and Associates, Inc. provided a brief thirty-minute overview of the PDRP process for stakeholders that were not able to attend the kickoff meeting. This presentation was an abbreviated presentation of the original kickoff material and included the project purpose, timeline and deliverables schedule, basic concepts of Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning, and an introduction to the *Post-Disaster Redevelopment: A Guide to Florida Communities*.

II. General Meeting

At approximately 9:00 am, Helene Wetherington provided an overview of the planning process and purpose of the meeting. She provided an explanation of the goals and objectives and instructions for the workgroup activities as detailed in each of the workgroup packets. Each group was instructed to assign a workgroup member to be a master note taker and a workgroup representative to provide an overview of their group's discussion.

III. Workgroup Breakout Discussion

Following the introduction of the general meeting, attendees were given the opportunity to break out into their respective workgroups in various sections of the room. The workgroups were provided packets of information with discussion materials to help guide their work group activities. The workgroup breakout discussion questions focused on defining issues, policy integration, and information needs. Due to the absence of some stakeholders, there was limited representation in a few workgroups. Those workgroups were combined with others to form the following workgroups:

- Infrastructure
- Health and Social Services
- Community Development, Economic Redevelopment, and Environment

IV. Reconvene for group discussion and adjourn

All work groups reconvened at 12:45 pm and the selected spokesperson from each group provided a report of the top findings of the group discussion during the breakout session. At approximately 1:15, the workgroups identified the following: issues that required additional information to process, issues that were multidisciplinary and overlapped into more than one workgroup, and possible opportunities for the development of goals. Master notes were collected by the planning team following the session and a summary of the breakout reports are summarized in Attachment A.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Attachment A: Workgroup Discussion Summary

Infrastructure

The Infrastructure Workgroup highlighted issues with mobile homes, community redevelopment areas, and the elevation of homes in certain flood zones. The work group discussed the potential issues and opportunities for the relocation of mobile homes if they were completely destroyed. The group determined that further insight and evaluation was needed from the Community Redevelopment Workgroup.

The issues and opportunities for the Oslow, Gifford, and Wabasso areas, using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding were also discussed. Identifying these vulnerable areas as community redevelopment areas may increase eligibility for additional funding source to support infrastructure improvements such as upgraded wastewater treatment and storm water systems. High-risk flood zones throughout the County continue to experience extensive flooding problems to homes and the surrounding area. Roads are elevated higher than the residential structures, in various areas throughout the county. This causes the roads to act like dams flooding structures. In the aftermath of a major catastrophic event, which causes widespread destruction, the County may consider targeted improvements within these areas. Not only should homes be built to the current code and above base flood elevation, but also whether dramatic infrastructure improvements should be incorporated. These improvements could potentially delay the reconstruction of individual homes creating political pressure.

Health and Social Services

The Health and Social Services Workgroup entailed a more diverse representation from various departments and organizations in Indian River County. The workgroup identified the need to expand the ability of social services agencies to communicate and coordinate their support efforts to vulnerable populations in the aftermath of a large-scale disaster. It is estimated that seventeen percent of the population in Indian River County has special needs (excluding the elderly population). The workgroup discussed the financial impact of augmenting personnel, resources, communication networks and information exchange capabilities. The group explored the possibility of creating a sub-committee/council for enhanced coordination with private physicians and local hospitals to ensure coordinated communication systems and response protocols in the aftermath of a catastrophic event. The County currently maintains a Healthcare Liaison, within the Emergency Management Division to support communication and coordination efforts.

A further critical topic is special needs transportation including extended hours of operation post disaster. Access to public transportation remains limited particularly for special needs populations and migrant workers. Public outreach and mitigation is largely needed for the non-English speaking population through translator services and other strategies. New Horizons currently has seventeen translators within its facilities that speak a total of twelve languages.

Community Redevelopment, Economic Redevelopment, and Environmental and Hazardous Materials Contamination

The Combined Workgroup consisted of stakeholders from community and economic development, and environmental sectors and organizations. They highlighted the issues of expedited permitting and the collaboration with businesses and overall economic related activities. Overall, the work group favored expedited and streamlined permitting processes for businesses and emergency infrastructure needs (such as water, sewer, and elevating structures). The group recommended the creation of a formal communication network managed by the Chamber of Commerce or the Economic Development Council to identify a process to collaborate with businesses to support and encourage economic redevelopment and avoid business relocation.