



# LMS TIMES

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## *Special points of interest:*

- Director's Corner
- HMGP Future Grant Funding Opportunity
- Greenacres Mitigation Project

*The LMS Times is a quarterly publication that seeks to provide residents of the Palm Beach County community with key information in the areas of mitigation and public safety. If you have stories that would benefit the community, please contact us. We want YOU involved. Send articles to: SRatlifl@pbcgov.org*

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## Director's Corner

By Bill Johnson, RN,  
CEM, Director,  
PBCDEM



### 2017 Hurricane Season in Review

As the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane season comes to a close on November 30, Palm Beach County had its share of tropical activities this season. As a matter of fact, this year's season proved to be the busiest since 2005.

First, we were lucky to have been spared the worst of Hurricane Irma, although we still took a big hit from her immense size and intensity. Palm Beach County suffered initial damages to the tune of \$147 million dollars. Over 156,000 of our citizens have registered for disaster assistance through FEMA, and over 94,000 have been approved and referred to various programs that FEMA provides. Debris from the storm is still being collected, over 2 months after the storm struck. Residents throughout the county still have blue tarps over their roofs, while they await FEMA money to provide for fixing their homes. Recovery from this hurricane is far from over.

When we began recovery operations from Irma, we then got a scare from Hurricane Maria, which devastated Puerto Rico, but luckily for us, went out to sea and did not threaten our county. In October, Tropical Storm Phillippe passed over the southern portion of PBC, providing up to 5 inches of rain in a very short time period to many places throughout the county.

It was an active season in the tropics, one that I personally hope does not repeat itself again anytime soon. My question to you is, did you take inventory of issues

that can be mitigated in the future? Did you submit a project to be scored and ranked on the Project Prioritized List (PPL)? Are you now preparing to apply for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding when it becomes available in the near future? We have 83 projects on our PPL currently, and many of those projects could very well be funded with Hurricane Irma HMGP funding in 2018. This is why we tell you it is important to participate in Working Group meetings, and to submit projects to mitigate hazards in your local community. We never know when these tragic incidents will strike, but we have the ability to recognize, plan for, and mitigate the associated problems they cause in the future. Your municipality/agency/district should be active in the LMS Working Group, because it takes active members to give us the best mitigation strategies and practices to better protect our citizens and the places we live and work. It is also a requirement to receive these HMGP funds, to be active in the LMS and a member in good standing in order to gain approval from FEMA for the funds when they are released. Don't get left out. The LMS Working Group meets quarterly at locations around Palm Beach County, and you are needed. Our next meeting is on December 13 in the Village of Wellington, and I hope you will attend to learn more about mitigation and how your jurisdiction can benefit from following a solid mitigation strategy.

Until next time, be safe and well.



## HMGP Future Grant Funding Opportunity

### **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program—Are you Ready?**

**By Shane Ratliff,  
LMS Coordinator**

The purpose of HMGP is to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures following a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration in the areas of the state, tribe, or territory requested by the Governor or Tribal Executive. The key purpose of this grant program is to enact mitigation measures that reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future disasters.

Palm Beach County was declared a major disaster area by President Trump on September 10, 2017. This opens up HMGP funding to the State of Florida. We anticipate the process for applying for these funds sometime in early 2018, and the process can take over a year.

What can you do now to be prepared to apply for this funding when it is available?

1. Your project must be on the current Project Prioritized List (PPL) as adopted by the LMS Steering Committee on November 8, 2017. Depending on when FEMA sets an application deadline, you may be able to apply with a project you submit in our Spring submission period, if you work quickly and beat the deadline.
2. Begin preparations now! If your project is on the list, go ahead and start gathering the information you will need in order to apply. This will make the process much easier as you are filling it out.
3. Write a good grant proposal for your project. Follow the instructions from FEMA to the letter. If it says they want copies of every map of the area in question, then provide them with that in your grant package, no matter how many pages it takes. It is not unusual for your completed grant application to be over 100 pages in length.
4. Justify everything! Make sure you send plenty of documentation to justify FEMA granting you the funds to complete your project. If your mitigation project is to prevent flooding of a street, send photos of that street flooded previously. Remember, a picture is worth 1,000 words.
5. Provide a good cost-benefit analysis (BCA). FEMA will not fund projects with a BCA of less than 1.0 (that is, they spend a dollar to get a dollar's worth of community benefit). The higher your BCA, the more "bang for your buck" FEMA is getting.

There should be an applicant's briefing online when these funds become available for application. Your LMS Coordinator will email all LMS Working Group members to advise them of the application period, deadline to apply, and any online or in-person applicant briefings that may be held. Be sure to check your emails and read them in their entirety so you don't miss out on this opportunity to mitigate hazards in your community.

There should be a substantial amount of Tier 1 funds available in the HMGP funding period due to Hurricane Irma. Don't miss your chance, make sure you apply to have your current PPL project(s) funded.



**LMS Tip of the Day:  
Updating the Status of Projects in the  
Project Prioritized List (PPL)**

There are many projects on the PPL which have been completed, deferred, or there is no longer someone within the municipality assigned to work on implementing the project. We need these projects to come off the PPL, so we have a more accurate representation of Mitigation projects within PBC. The Steering Committee has also stated in the LMS that after five (5) years, if you have not been funded or completed your project, you will be removed from the PPL and be required to resubmit your project with updated numbers (costs, etc.) to keep your project on a list.

The LMS Coordinator will be reviewing all projects still on the list and determining if they are older than five (5) years. If this applies to your project, you will be contacted prior to its removal and given a copy of your submission, so you may resubmit in the next period with updated information.

# **Best Practices: Greenacres Original Section Stormwater Drainage Systems Project**

By: Kara Irwin-Ferris, AICP, Planning and Engineering Director, and

Shane Ratliff, LMS Coordinator

Various storm events, including Tropical Storm Isaac on August 27, 2012, revealed weaknesses in the current stormwater drainage systems for the Original Section in the City of Greenacres, which was platted in 1925. The City developed a six-year phased project for drainage improvement to address some of these weaknesses. The



land area is approximately 278 acres, and includes 1598 total units. Some of these include range housing types, commercial use, and industrial use.

The overall project consists of the installation of a stormwater drainage system, including inlets, piping, and a discharge to the E-3 Canal, along First Street from Haverhill Road on the east to the E-3 Canal to the west, as well as increasing the storage capacity and conveyance effectiveness of the existing alleys through ex-

cavation and grading. There were also improvements to the capacity of the connections from the alleys to the First Street drainage system and the L-11 Canal.

This project, which was included on the Palm Beach County LMS PPL for a period of time, ranked at #1 on the list, due to the well-written project submission. Although the project moved forward without Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding using their own Capital Improvement and Community Development Block Grant funds, this project serves as a model for what mitigation projects, when written well and the commitment of the municipality to do the project even without grant money, can accomplish.

For more information regarding this project, please con-



tact Planning and Engineering Director for the City of Greenacres, Karen Ferris, at [kferris@greenacresfl.gov](mailto:kferris@greenacresfl.gov).

A big thank you goes out to the City of Greenacres for focusing on mitigation, and providing information for this article to help spur ideas and more mitigation projects in Palm Beach County. Keep up the good work!



## **Upcoming LMS Working Group Meetings**

The LMS Working Group will meet at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates:

- December 13, 2017, Village of Wellington
- March 14, 2018, City of Boynton Beach
- June 13, 2018, TBA

We need municipalities/agencies to volunteer to host our upcoming meetings! Please contact Shane Ratliff at [SRatlif1@pbcgov.org](mailto:SRatlif1@pbcgov.org) to sign up today!

The public is also encouraged to attend.

## New Project Additions to the PPL

By Shane Ratliff,  
LMS Coordinator

The Fall 2017 project submission period has come and gone, and with it came a dozen new projects ranked for potential future funding. Due to Hurricane Irma coming right before the project submission period, we received many more new projects than anticipated, which is a good thing. It's never too early to think about mitigation and how to avoid future problems. Below is a list of our newest PPL ranked projects for 2017:

- Tracking #115 (PPL Rank 42) Town of Palm Beach—Townwide Undergrounding of Utilities project
- Tracking #131 (PPL Rank 52) Town of Briny Breezes—Sub-Pump Emergency Response project
- Tracking #134 (PPL Rank 64) Town of Juno Beach—Universe Blvd Improvements project
- Tracking #138 (PPL Rank 43) Village of Wellington—Pump Station Number 2 Hardening project
- Tracking #139 (PPL Rank 51) Village of Wellington—Public Works Facility Retrofit project
- Tracking #140 (PPL Rank 82) Village of Wellington—C-23/Pierson Rd Improvements project
- Tracking #141 (PPL Rank 34) Town of Lantana—Lantana Cove Drainage Improvements (2017) project
- Tracking #152 (PPL Rank 36) Village of Wellington—High Flow Lift Station Emergency Power project
- Tracking #154 (PPL Rank 62) Village of Wellington—Water Reclamation Facility EOC/Central Command Building project
- Tracking #155 (PPL Rank 69) Village of Wellington—Water Treatment Plant Hardening
- Tracking #167 (PPL Rank 57) Town of Lantana—Lantana Police Dept Wind Retrofit
- Tracking #174 (PPL Rank 1) City of Greenacres—Gladiator Lake Drainage Enhancements

Congratulations to all those who submitted projects during the Fall 2017 submission period. There were a host of projects covering multiple different mitigation hazards.

The Evaluation Panel wanted everyone to know that for all future submissions, please follow the guidance document and the submission form completely. If it asks “attach documentation”, then you should attach something to prove you have done what is being asked. This is how you will rank higher in the future, by justifying the things you are claiming in your submission. Also, several projects did not follow the Benefit-Cost Analysis instructions which said to put the entire formula into your submission. Those who did not, had points deducted for failing to provide the necessary formula to justify their project’s benefit vs. cost (as required by FEMA).

Our next project submission period will be in Spring of 2018, so start thinking about future projects early!

### WebEOC® LMS Upgrade Project

PBC DEM is in the process of upgrading the WebEOC® LMS Boards to make them more user-friendly, as well as to streamline some of the processes to make the boards more functional and easier to navigate, which will be even better for our LMS program going forward. We thank everyone for the input received to improve the system for all of us.

Please **DO NOT** attempt to log into the LMS boards until further notice. They will not function correctly, and will likely give you an error message if you attempt to login. The LMS Coordinator will send you an email in the Spring when the project upgrade is complete, so you can then enjoy the new LMS experience.

This does not affect the emergency portion of WebEOC®. You will still be able to use your normal emergency logins for activations or emergencies. You just won't be able to use the municipality's LMS login or see LMS projects.