



# LMS TIMES



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## Special points of interest:

- Director's Corner
- Dozens apply for HMGP—Irma funding
- Upcoming LMS Working Group Meetings

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: [SRatliff1@pbcgov.org](mailto:SRatliff1@pbcgov.org)

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Department of Public Safety  
Division of Emergency Management  
20 South Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415  
[www.PBCGOV.com/DEM](http://www.PBCGOV.com/DEM)

PH: 561-712-6400  
Fax: 561-712-6464

## Director's Corner

By Bill Johnson, RN,  
CEM, Director,  
PBCDEM



## Back to Basics: Changing the Focus to Mitigation

Recently, FEMA issued their new Strategic Plan. The thing about it is, it all fit on the front side of one page. Brock Long, FEMA Administrator (pictured below), spoke extensively about this new approach at the Governor's Hurricane Conference in May, and to be honest, it makes sense.

The idea is getting back to basics. FEMA can't be everything to everybody, he said, so they identified the things they do well, the things proven to work in the field of disaster management, and the direction they want to see the agency go, and they came up with this simple plan.

The three goals of their plan: 1) Build a Culture of Preparedness, 2) Ready the Nation for Catastrophic Disasters, and 3) Reduce the Complexity of FEMA. They want to achieve these three goals using 12 objectives that were identified, but it is the very first objective of goal #1 that I want to address in this article.

*Objective 1.1—Incentivize investments that reduce risk, including pre-disaster mitigation, and reduce disaster costs at all levels.*

This is a big deal. FEMA is now advocating that mitigating **before** the disaster is the best way to prevent losses. Local mitigators have known this for years, but to have FEMA recognize and codify this into their culture, and strive to make it a part of the emergency management culture nationwide is something to talk about.



The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program in FY2017 only made 90 million dollars available nationwide for mitigation, and that was not totally allocated for projects, as plans and plan updates were also eligible for funds. Each state was only eligible for 4 million total dollars for mitigation projects until the 90 million was exhausted. This is an unacceptable amount of funds if we are to ever truly address PDM in our communities.

Mr. Long also addressed that there was a bill in Congress which would boost these funds to a much higher level, into the billions, but it had stalled and the status of it was uncertain. He spoke highly of mitigation, and I believe he will continue to push for more mitigation funding in the future, as we all know it is the bedrock to preventing a natural disaster from becoming a rebuilding nightmare.

We all should talk more about mitigation. You should apply for every mitigation dollar available. We want to harden our facilities, we want to improve our storm drainage systems, we want to prepare our communities for the next storm. But, mitigation oftentimes takes a back seat to other priorities. You should talk to everyone who will listen about mitigation and how studies show that for every dollar spent in mitigation, many more dollars (the last study showed it went from \$4 to \$6) are realized in future disaster benefit.

Let's work together to be the voice of mitigation, a proven method for reducing loss and strengthening our communities. Only through educating our peers, leadership, and local decision-makers about the benefits of mitigation will we ever move it to the place it should be in our community's "disaster toolbox."

You can find FEMA's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan [here](#). Until next time, be safe and well.

## Dozens Apply for HMGP—Irma funding

### The applications are in...now the wait begins

By Shane Ratliff,  
LMS Coordinator

Many of you submitted projects to get on the PPL rankings over the past few cycles, and for the past couple of months, you were able to actually apply to fund those sought after projects using HMGP—Irma funds. The deadline for applying through the State Mitigation Bureau was August 6, 2018. The total amount of requests was \$30,544,292.00! Great work PBC LMS!

The following projects were issued LMS Letters of Support which is required to apply (Federal Share):

- #1—Greenacres—Gladiator Lake Drainage Enhancements—\$1.3 million
- #3—Lake Worth—18th Ave N Drainage Resiliency Improvements—\$350,000
- #4—Boynton Beach—Sea Level Rise & Tidal Drainage Improvements—\$637,500
- #5—Lake Worth—Wellesley Ln/Holy Cross Drainage Resiliency Improvements—\$75,000
- #6—Indian Trail Improvement Dist—MO Canal Reinforcement/Revetment—\$300,000
- #7—South Bay—Wind Retrofit City Hall—\$95,000
- #9—South Bay—Installation of Stormwater System—\$412,500
- #10—Lake Park—Lake Shore Drainage Improvements—\$2.625 million
- #12—Greenacres—Public Works Generator—\$180,000
- #15—Royal Palm Beach—Bridge Slope Stabilization—\$60,000
- #18—Golf—Residential Undergrounding of Power Lines—\$1.5 million
- #21—South Florida Water Management District—PBDASS Project—\$300,000
- #27—West Palm Beach—Water Treatment Plant Hardening and Windproofing—\$750,000
- #39—Jupiter—Town Hall/EOC/Police Retrofit (code-plus project) - \$1,246,869
- #41—Palm Beach County FD&O—Courthouse

Skylight Removal/Roof Retrofit—\$852,198

- #44—Wellington—High Flow Lift Station Emergency Power—\$187,500
- #49—Indian Trail Improvement Dist—Primary East-West Conveyance Improvements—\$3,000,000
- #50—Town of Palm Beach—Townwide Undergrounding of Utilities (Phase V only) - \$11,137,500
- #51—Wellington—Pump Station #2 Hardening—\$1,563,750
- #58—Wellington—Public Works Facility Retrofit—\$716,250
- #59—Indian Trail Improvement Dist—Culvert Improvements Phase I—\$1,579,875
- #60—Briny Breezes—Sub-pump generators for lift stations—\$40,350
- #70—Juno Beach—Universe Blvd Improvements—\$1.5 million
- #78—West Palm Beach—Tidal Valve Implementation Phase 2—\$135,000

Please let the LMS Coordinator know if you receive a letter/email of award, so that your project can be changed in the PPL to “funded”. Also, once your project is funded and you begin construction, take before and after photos and submit to the LMS Coordinator, these are needed as part of the LMS2020 project, showing that mitigation projects are moving forward in Palm Beach County .



*LMS Chair Ralph Wall and LMS Coordinator Shane Ratliff obtaining signatures for HMGP Projects' LMS Letters of Support.*

## ***PPL Submission Period coming in September- October!***

***By: Shane Ratliff, LMS Coordinator***

It's that time again! Time to start thinking about new projects you would like to add to the Prioritized Project List (PPL). Due to Hurricane Irma's HMGP funds process, there will undoubtedly be a lot of projects which will fall off the list, making room for some new, innovative ideas in the area of mitigation. In order to be eligible to apply for the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) series of funds, including Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), your project must be on the PPL in order to qualify.

Just remember the following ground rules for projects submitted for the PPL:

- ⇒ Once a project goes under construction, it is no longer eligible for these funds, so think of projects that you want to do 1-5 years from now, not immediately
- ⇒ You must contribute 25% of the costs, whether cash, in-kind, volunteer, etc. as FEMA will only pay 75% of the total project
- ⇒ The project **must** mitigate a natural hazard (man-made hazards are not eligible)
- ⇒ The project must result in a tangible, constructed thing that mitigates a hazard. Studies, travel, software, etc. currently do not qualify for these funds
- ⇒ Projects must be renewed every five (5) years if they are not completed

### **Upcoming LMS Working Group Meetings**

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

- September 12, 2018, Town of Lantana
- December 12, 2018, Village of Wellington
- March 13, 2019, City of Boynton Beach

LMS rules require a representative from every member municipality/agency to attend every WG meeting.

The public is also encouraged to attend.

The following is the PPL Submission Period schedule for Fall 2018:

- ◇ Submissions will be accepted electronically from September 24 to October 10, 2018.
- ◇ The review/scoring period will be from October 15 to October 31, 2018.
- ◇ The Evaluation Panel in-person meeting to finalize scores and rank projects (produce a new PPL) is TBD sometime between November 1 and November 9, 2018 (project POC's will be invited).
- ◇ The LMS Steering Committee will review the new PPL and approve at their regular quarterly meeting on November 14, 2018, at which time it will go into effect.



Palm Beach County's Emergency Notification System

Start brainstorming ideas now, don't wait till the last minute to come up with a project. Also, if there are any big mitigation projects you have wanted to do, but just didn't have the funding to do it, put pen to paper and get that idea written up into a potential project. These types of projects end up being some of the best and most comprehensive, and we never know when more mitigation money will be coming our way. FEMA and others have been pushing extensively for a change in thought to start mitigating more before disasters occur instead of waiting until it is too late, which could bode well for mitigation funding in the future.

Don't miss out, get your ideas together today! The LMS Coordinator will email you will specific instructions on how to submit a project and the submission guidance document before the submission period begins. All projects must be submitted through WebEOC®.

### **Upcoming CRS User Group Meetings**

The CRS User Group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- October 18, 2018
- January 17, 2019
- April 18, 2019

All meetings are held at the PBC Vista Center on Jog Rd.

The public is also encouraged to attend.

## Community Rating System (CRS) Update

By Shane Ratliff,  
LMS/CRS Coordinator

As you all should know by now, the CRS Program and the LMS program are under the same Coordinator. With that in mind, I wanted to add a section for a CRS update with information that is pertinent to our CRS community and has crossover elements into the LMS community.

The CRS Program is made up of 19 “Activities” in which a community can get credit (points) towards higher “classes” of verification/certification. The lower the class number, the higher the community has scored on its program. For example, a community typically enters the CRS with a Class 10 Rating, which is a basic membership level. From there, as you earn points in your verification visits, you can move down to a Class 9, which represents a 5% discount on flood insurance rates in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), and add 5% for each class. For example, Palm Beach County (unincorporated) is rated at a Class 5, which represents a 25% discount on flood rates in the SFHA.

The 19 activities cover a wide range of things, from Elevation Certificates (Activity 310), Community Outreach Projects (Activity 330), Stormwater Management (Activity 450), to the one where the LMS is deeply embedded...Activity 510 (Floodplain Management Planning). The reason why the LMS is embedded so deeply in this activity is because unincorporated County as well as at least 18 municipalities use the LMS plan document as their Floodplain Management Plan for their jurisdiction, since it covers all jurisdictions within the county. Some jurisdictions also write their own FMP for Activity 510, which is allowable as well and usually garners more credit than an LMS plan, which really isn't designed to be a floodplain management plan, but covers flooding as one of many hazards within it.

Our LMS2020 project, which has a completed draft and has been approved by the Steering Committee and the Working Group, was written this cycle with special attention being paid to following the “10 Steps of CRS Floodplain Management Planning” and including as many of those items as possible into the LMS document. This should increase the overall total credit under CRS Activity 510, which will help jurisdictions during their verification visits to potentially garner enough points to move up another class.

In future issues of the LMS Times, it is being considered to expand and rename the newsletter in order to cover issues from both programs, and include the new “LMS/CRS Times” (or whatever catchy name is chosen) into Activity 330 in order to garner even more credit for our communities, keeping our flood insurance low. More details to come in future issues.

### CRS Suggested Reading

<http://waterstrategies.com/assets/mwl-may-18.pdf> From the May 2018 Municipal Water Leader (a national publication), “Ahead of the Storm Water Curve” regarding West Palm Beach Public Utilities.

### **Elevations/Acquisitions in Mitigation**

In case you weren't aware, elevation and acquisition projects are given special weight in many different mitigation program funding streams. This means that a repetitive loss property which is acquired, elevated, or relocated from a flood prone area gets more weight over other types of mitigation projects (and automatically qualifies for BCA due to the type of project). It is also a very cost-effective way to end the cycle of flooding in those areas that continuously flood year after year, as these projects usually range in the 50,000—200,000 dollar range, instead of the millions that a drainage system would cost.

You also may have citizens who own these properties asking for assistance due to flooding over and over again. If you see the opportunity to utilize one of these mitigation methods and the property owner is in favor of it, you should consider taking on one of these projects.

The property constraints are strict (elevations require owner to keep flood insurance in perpetuity/acquisitions must remain greenspace in perpetuity), but it is well worth it in the end. You can check out this short [video](#) from FEMA to find out more about the acquisition and elevation opportunities within mitigation.