



**PALM BEACH COUNTY
LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY
WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes**



**December 9, 2020
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Palm Beach County EOC – Telephone Conference
20 South Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415**

I. Dial-in Information

- 1-561-776-2160
 - PIN: 142997#

II. Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions – Ralph Wall, Chairperson

- Agency representation will be reflected in meeting minutes

Boynton Beach	Cloud Lake
Delray Beach	Golf
Juno Beach	Jupiter
Lake Clarke Shores	Lake Park
Lake Worth Beach	Ocean Ridge
Palm Beach	Palm Beach Gardens
Pahokee	Palm Beach County
Palm Beach Shores	Palm Beach Medical Society
Palm Springs	Royal Palm Beach
Seacoast Utilities	SFWMD
South Palm Beach	Treasure Coast RPC
Tequesta	West Palm Beach

- Shane completed roll call for municipalities that have not checked in yet
- Ralph started at 9:08 and called the meeting to order. Welcomed everyone and wished everyone happy holidays. Asked if there were any questions or comments from the last minutes. [No comments or questions.]
- Meeting minutes can be found at <http://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Sections/Planning-Local-Mitigation-Strategy.aspx>

III. Approved Fall 2020 PPL Published – Ralph Wall, Chairperson

- +8 Projects for a total of 85 projects (net after dropping old projects).
 - Keep projects on the list and current as much as possible. Many opportunities to keep projects scored.



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- 4 projects removed due to being aged-out, 2 aged projects re-scored, 4 aged projects pending HMGP funding (Irma).
- 23 total submissions including re-scores
- 2 projects rejected for not being eligible for mitigation funds (verified by State Mitigation that they are not eligible)
 - Beach re-nourishment project
 - Building a new building from scratch
- Shane has new information on new funding opportunities that are available. Will talk about it at the end during questions and comments.
- Member asked for a copy of new projects (Shane will email out to members).

IV. Presentation – PBC’s Review and Evaluation of FEMA’s Coastal Flood Risk Study – Jeremy McBryan, County Water Resources Manager

- PowerPoint was sent out with agenda so members can follow along
- New preliminary maps were published back in 2019
- Followed along with PowerPoint
 - History with NFIP
 - FEMA does update flood studies, insurance and maps
 - Maps that are currently affective are based on data from the 1970s
 - Flood maps and studies were published back in December 2019
 - County’s intent with FEMA data was to make sure that the date was appropriate. And appropriately characterized in their reports
 - Map shows municipalities that are affected
 - Jeremy went over key findings from the county’s review of the FEMA Study
 - Went over where they are in the process with FEMA on appeals for the study
 - We have three lengthy documents with lots of data for the appeal so we are off to a good start
 - Jeremy reviews counties that were affected and which ones would be filing an appeal or which ones will not be appealing
 - Palm Beach County board was consulted back in September 2020. Directed Jeremy to report back about FEMA consultation and how to move forward in the process.
 - Briefings started back in July 2020. Had a coordination meeting with FEMA in mid-November. Will continue to reach out to the CRS Group



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next. Hoping to meet with Palm Beach County Board again in January of 2021.

- Did not get a good feeling from FEMA about working on appeals. FEMA referred Jeremy to the ongoing appeal period.
- Link to presentation to the Palm Beach County Board is in the PowerPoint.
- Many of our cities will be affected by the new flood maps
- Still evaluating on where we go, will have more information back in January 2021
- Opened up for questions to Jeremy.
- **GOLF** had question: what happens if we are not on the map? **A:** GOLF is not on the map since they are not a coastal community. They will remain with the current FIRM maps from 2017, the appeal process has passed for those maps.
- **BOYNTON BEACH: Q:** Do you have an idea if PBC Board is going to continue with the appeal or are they waiting for the presentation in January? **A:** We are still working on a presentation and we are hoping to have something early January, will have more information in a couple of weeks. Will let other municipalities know so they are able to join in on the presentation if they would like
- **SFWMD Q:** FEMA didn't consult about county specific data before they did the study, and you have additional information about that? **A:** County was collecting data and didn't have it until 2018, FEMA has already moved on and had enough processing of the data and could not use the data that we had acquired. Started project back in 2013. FEMA wasn't able to incorporate some of the elevation data. So that's why there are elevation and grading data.
- **SFWMD Q:** Was this work done in house? **A:** They had a mapping team and some sub-consultants for the costal project work. Big consulting team that does this all over the country.
- **Ralph:** Thank you for the presentation.
 - We have a situation in WPB with these maps, they have indicated we have "E" zones. Back in 2016 we had the choice of selecting model ordinances. We did not select the "E" zone model. Now it looks like we are going to have to go back and add the "E" zones to all our ordinances. It's an important issue to address.
 - The other situation is that the city has met with consultant to work on the appeal process with FEMA. We are going to work on what we are going to incorporate into that appeal. Is anyone else working with the county on this appeal? No responses. We will coordinate



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with everyone on where we are on this appeal, this way we can let Jeremy and the other LMS member know where we are on the project, so if anyone wants to join in they are able to show support.

V. 2021 Meeting Schedule – Ralph Wall, Chairperson

- Working Group meets 2nd Wednesday quarterly, this would be March 10, June 9, September 8, and December 8, 2021
- Approved by Steering Committee to keep same meeting dates in 2021 for all LMS groups.
- Steering committee met last month. They went back and looked at what the schedule is going to look like next year. They had to do some date changes because the dates conflicted with some of the other county meetings back in 2017 when Shane first started with LMS. So we changed dates then, and attendance has increased on the meetings. Lots have worked on blocking out this time for the meeting and have made it work.

VI. Questions/Comments – Ralph Wall, Chairperson

- Shane was on a call with State mitigation.
- We did not get a NOFA on Dorian, because of the COVID situation that came up.
- There will be one for Dorian (DR-4468) that will be coming out after the holidays
- Hurricane Sally – there may be an opportunity for this next January as well (will send out information to members) under Tier 3 depending on how much money is available.
- Management cost 5% on projects is based on how much you spend. IF you were awarded 200K for a project, and if you only spend 180K you are only entitled to 9K at that point. You have to give \$1,000 back. They would rather you draw out management costs as you go, not right off the start. That way everyone stays square when it comes to the end of the project.
- Applicant workshops will be coming after the NOFAs. The workshops are usually in person but with COVID, the workshops will be virtual. So they can get more of them done in a faster amount of time so they will have more time for questions, but it will still be different than doing it in person. Will pass on information about workshops as we have the dates.
- 27-P22 which is a FL Administrative Code. There was a proposal to make a change back in March/April. Where the money is going to go and if there is going to be a Tier3 after a Tier2. It would have taken away your LMS group ability to prioritize funding, and their power to rank these,



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there was a big uproar over that back then. So, they withdrew their proposal. Then everyone was shut down because of COVID so it went away. It did however, come back in October. They only made technical changes on FEMA rules, the local control was kept the same, so they didn't make any of those changes. They made changes on the application. There will still be T1, T2, and T3 if there is money to go that far. That went into effect November 24, 2020.

- They are going to do tests of a total digital HMGP platform in 2021. The HMGP process will be moving to 100% digital eventually. They don't want any more paper. They are already soliciting counties that are willing to do both, on paper and digital, in case something goes wrong with the digital process. After a year, in 2022 or 2023 they will make it all digital. FEMA has already done that with BRIC and now the state wants to as well. Shane did not volunteer our LMS for this so the LMS does not have to do twice as much work for a pilot this year.
- 406 Mitigation – on the PA side of mitigation, that doesn't get used that much. A one-year lock in based on 20% of disaster per state. Using HMGP vs 406 Mitigation. 406 money is guarantee money and will not have to wait 18 months to go through HMGP process. State is working on information to make it more appealing/qualifying to county PPL projects, so if your public building gets damaged, and you have a wind retrofit project on the PPL for that building, then pull it off the PPL and apply under 406 mitigation funds and it will be covered. If your project was only 10% of the cost of a full rebuild after a disaster, 406 will pay for it.
- Hurricane Michael, they only have 1% of the funds encumbered. There is a bill that the legislature is going to have before them that provides the 10% or 20% money match to give to the panhandle counties so they can keep that money in T1 and T2. They doubt there will be T3. It wasn't a 100%, but very likely that this bill will pass, and those that applied hoping for Tier 3 funding will have to reapply for another disaster. They have lots of projects up there in the panhandle to encumber that money, just not the match, which the legislature will likely give them in the bill.
- No other questions or comments

VII. Next Meeting: March 10, 2021 at 9:00am, Conference Call

- 9: 55 am: Meeting is now adjourned. Happy holidays everyone.



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