



LMS TIMES



Volume 9, Issue 1

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Special points of interest:

- Director's Corner
- HMGP Grant Program
- Lake Okeechobee News
- Disaster Recovery Reform Act (2020)

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: jmercuri@pbcgov.org

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Director's Corner

By Bill Johnson, RN,
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Always Open For Business

Can anyone recall a long-ago period where we had some time to concentrate on "blue sky" opportunities? If you answered no, well neither can I. Some days, I believe we remain in hurricane preparedness and recovery mode; daunting and continual.

With our endeavors to always keep the doors open, we strive to improve our community's resistance to damage from known natural, human caused, and environmental hazards. We kicked the off the year with our visit to the Florida Fairgrounds for the annual PBC Fair.

Known as the "Hero's of the Storm Day", the DEM staff made multiple public presentations on items best utilized in a home preparedness go-kit. Folks were well engaged to see contents we had on display. We also held some great question and answer sessions such as "Myth Busters"; dispelling some common misconceptions showed how our citizens can best prepare their families and their homes.

We always promote days such as these in direct coordination with our Local Mitigation Strategy. Talking with our communities, by any media platforms or public outreach, promotes citizen awareness and preparedness through the distribution of information on all our hazards and utilizing measures to mitigate them.

As you will read in this issue of the *LMS Times*, it was that time of year to promote mitigation projects from your community through the submission of spring LMS projects for the Prioritized

Project List (PPL). Communities were proactive to propose 17 projects during the April PPL submission period. The data call always recognizes that if there were any preventative damages that can be mitigated through project development, communities resourcefully gather project details and get them submitted and ranked on the PPL. Projects now must be qualified by our LMS Evaluations Committee for possible placement to the PPL in order to apply for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds.

On a final note, there is unique opportunity available locally to help you build resilience in your community. The Governor's Hurricane Conference® again returns to Palm Beach County in May. This year's theme is "Road to Readiness" that recognizes challenges to be ready and resilient presenting plausible paths to address the ever-evolving readiness posture of Florida's vulnerable communities. The Conference will be at the Palm Beach County Convention Center from May 12—17, 2019. This year organizations have mapped out more than 40 training sessions, 65 workshops, various seminars, and a dynamic general session with the new Governor, Ron DeSantis and FDEM Director, Jared Moskowitz to share lessons learned and ways to improve our readiness.

I would encourage you to take advantage of our local opportunity to learn from, and meet with, others who experienced some of the same issues during last hurricane seasons. You can find the conference information at www.flghc.org and register there as well.

Until next time, be safe and well.



MITIGATE HAZARDS



Do you know the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program?

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is authorized by Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93 -288 as amended). The purpose of the HMGP is to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures following a Presidential major disaster declaration. Hazard mitigation is any action taken to reduce or eliminate long term risk to people and property from natural hazards. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) expands this definition in the HMGP funding process to include that hazard mitigation is an action intended to reduce repetitive losses from future natural disasters. In this context, "repetitive" refers to similar types of losses caused by a recurring natural hazard. The term "losses" refers to expenditures for the repair or replacement of public and private property, and for the relief of personal loss or other hardship.

HMGP funds are not reserved for post-disaster projects that need repair or for the reconstruction of damaged property. They are also not provided to start new construction. These funds are provided to projects that have been vetted by the local and state jurisdictions according to statutes and established processes from the Local Mitigation Strategy which supports the Florida's mitigation strategy.

The disbursement of HMGP funds supports the concept that mitigation planning is a key process used to breaking the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. This is why HMGP funds are provided following a Presidential major disaster declaration, so that those projects intended to reduce future damages from identified hazards are conducted hand-in-hand with recovery efforts.



The objectives of the HMGP Hazard Mitigation Grant Program are as follows:

1. To prevent future losses of lives and damage to property due to disasters;
2. Implement state or local hazard mitigation plans;
3. Enable mitigation measures to be implemented during immediate recovery from a disaster; and
4. Provide funding for previously identified mitigation measures that benefit the disaster area.



ABOVE IMAGES: Before and after beach restoration. More than a decade of collaboration with multiple state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and Florida Department of Environmental Protection, steered the design of Brevard County's Mid Reach Beach Mitigation project, east of the Satellite Beach shoreline. (Brevard County images)

Credit: <http://spaceandplace.com/2017/05/26/mid-reach-beach-mitigation-project/>

Who is eligible to receive HMGP funds?

1. State and local governments;
2. Certain private non-profit organizations or institutions (e.g., hospitals, schools, community-based organizations); and
3. Indian tribes or authorized tribal organizations and Alaska Native villages or organizations.

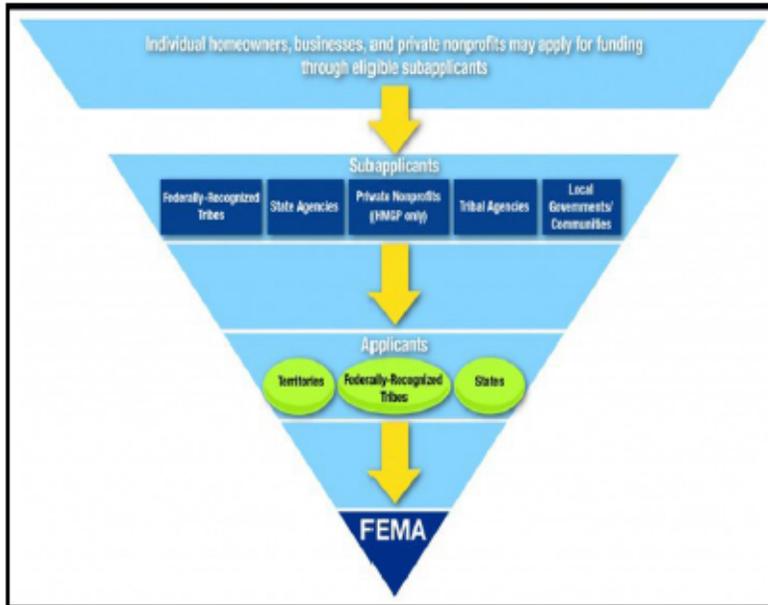
Types of projects for HMGP funding

1. Acquisition and relocation of structures from hazard-prone areas;
2. Retrofitting, such as flood proofing to protect structures from future damage;
3. Elevation of structures or utilities;
4. Structural hazard control, like debris basins, floodwalls, rip rap, wetland restoration;
5. Storm and infrastructure protective measures; and
6. Projects intended to protect property from Sea Level Rise are also accepted.

the State will be requesting to review the PPL and will project applications based on the ranking in the PPL. The State's Administrative Plan governs how projects are selected for funding. Projects are then submitted to FEMA who ultimately determines approval.

Deadlines for applying for HMGP funds

A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is published and then project applications are processed. The NOFA usually provides a 90-day period for applicants to submit project applications. All projects must be approved and obligated within two years of the disaster declaration. Make sure to contact the County LMS Coordinator to stay informed of the disbursement, process, and tracking of HMGP projects.



The flowchart explains the process individual homeowners, businesses, sub-applicants, and applicants must go through to apply for HMGP funds with FEMA.

FEMA Renews \$1.3B Reinsurance Program with 28 Carriers

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has renewed for the third year a reinsurance program that transfers future catastrophic flood insurance losses to the private sector

The 2019 traditional reinsurance placement for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) transferred \$1.32 billion of the NFIP's financial risk to the private reinsurance market. This reinsurance agreement is effective from January 1, 2019 to January 1, 2020, with 28 private reinsurance companies.

Through reinsurance, FEMA partners with private markets to build a foundation that supports a sound financial framework for the NFIP by a meaningful transfer of flood risk.

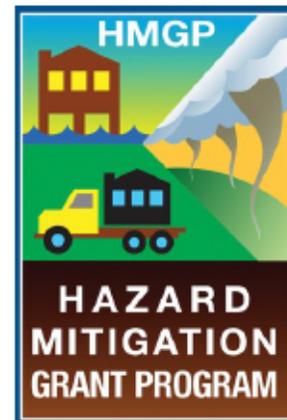
<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2019/01/31/516315.htm>

How much money is available in the HMGP?

FEMA can fund up to 75% of the eligible costs of each project. The state or local match is 25 % and does not need to be cash: in-kind services or materials may be used. For each disaster, total HMGP funding is 7.5 % of the federal funds spent on the Public and Individual Assistance programs (minus administrative expenses).

How do I apply?

In Palm Beach County, your project must first be evaluated, scored, and ranked in the LMS Project Prioritized List (PPL). When HMGP funds become available after a Presidential disaster declaration,



By Joe Mercurio,
LMS Coordinator

LMS2020 Updates

After dozens of hours of work, the LMS2020 is now in a completed draft form. It will soon be reviewed by the Florida Division of Emergency Management's Mitigation Bureau in the hopes of being "approved pending adoption" in the near future. In order to remain compliant and satisfy CRS requirements, we will have one more post survey public input meeting in May to showcase the draft document to the public, and solicit their input one last time. Then, upon receipt of the document from FDEM and any corrections that need to be made, it will be up to you as LMS members to take the document to your own municipality/agency and seek adoption as written.

All municipalities participating in the LMS and wanting to remain eligible for mitigation grant funding **must** adopt the LMS2020 (You will be notified when it is ready for approval and provided an electronic copy for your commission). Then, the final step is the approval of the Board of County Commissioners and the actual implementation of the LMS2020. More information will follow in the months ahead. Thanks to the Revisions Subcommittee for all the long hours and hard work into producing this document and continuing to move us forward in the area of mitigation.

LMS2020 Public Showcase Dates

The final draft of the Palm Beach County Local Mitigation Strategy, the LMS2020 document will be showcased to the public on May 2, 2019 from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL. A second public showcase will be held on May 20, 2019 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Lakeview Room of the Wellington Community Center, 12150 Forest Hill Blvd, Wellington, FL.

We want to provide an opportunity for the public to view the final draft document updates from the revised LMS2015, and make comments for the Revisions Subcommittee to consider in the LMS2020 update.

The public is invited to view the Draft LMS2020 (the current LMS2015 document) prior to the meeting at Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management's website at <http://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Publications/Local-Mitigation-Strategy.pdf> and are encouraged to comment at these public showcases, or send your comments to LMS Coordinator Joe Mercurio, at jmercuri@pbcgov.org and they will be compiled and sent to the Revisions Subcommittee for further analysis and possible inclusion in the LMS2020.



Lake Okeechobee in the News

New Administration and New Lake O Actions

By Joe Mercurio,
LMS Coordinator

Lake Okeechobee Lowered to 2011 Low Levels

As the month of March closed out, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) measured Lake Okeechobee at 11.90 feet above sea level.

New modeling and execution of new policies are trying to regulate the health of Lake Okeechobee through different measures. USACE is trying to ensure there is enough water in Lake Okeechobee in case of potential drought conditions although seeking to reduced harmful brackish discharges into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries with fresh lake water that can cause toxic algae blooms.

Colonel Andrew Kelly, Jacksonville District commander for the Corps stated; "Taking the lake lower this year also reduces the probability of being forced to release water during the wet season when blooms are more likely." "We want to help take the lake lower this year in particular to allow for regeneration of aquatic vegetation which will help clean the water." According to the Corps, the lake is at its lowest level for this time of year since the dry season of 2010 and 2011.

Col. Kelly also stated the Corps is not targeting a specific lake level. "We want to take the lake lower in a responsible manner," he said. "Our goal is to release what water we can without causing any significant impacts to the estuaries."

Estuary Releases

Starting March 30, USACE reduced the pulse release to the Caloosahatchee estuary to a 7-day average rate of 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the W.P. Franklin Lock and Dam (S-79), as planned. In addition, the Corps reduced flows to the St. Lucie estuary down to zero cfs as measured at the St. Lucie Lock and Dam (S-80). Additional runoff from rain in the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie basins could occasionally result in flows that exceed one or both targets.



Credit: Florida Memory

"We've been successful in lowering the lake this year, which should help regenerate some of the submerged aquatic vegetation, make it easier to do controlled burns, and may help reduce releases during the hot summer months when algae is most likely to bloom," said Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds, Deputy Commander for south Florida. "Drier conditions and the windy weather we've been experiencing lately means that evapotranspiration has increased, and the lake has receded more than three-quarters of a foot within the past month. As a result, we have adjusted the flows to the St. Lucie down to zero this week."

Credit: Kimberly Miller, Palm Beach Post, March 6, 2010, pg 1

Chauncey Goss to Head SFWMD Board

In January, newly elected Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Chauncey Goss to the South Florida Management District Board. Mr. Goss is an elected official from the Sanibel City Council and has been a strong advocate of environmental issues affecting Florida. Mr. Goss is recognized for his conservancy efforts on the boards of two nonprofit groups that have had lead roles in water quality issues; Captains for Clean water and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. His new position will allow for continued partnerships for Everglades restoration and improved water quality.



Credit: Lakooillanos.org

Retired: Florence & Michael

Hurricanes Florence and Michael have officially put in their notice and retired from the World Meteorological Organization. They have been removed from the six-year naming cycle and placed into the history books. They will be replaced by Francine and Milton who will make their debut in the year 2024.

Hurricane Florence struck North Carolina on September 14, producing severe flooding, causing 51 deaths. Hurricane Michael impacted the panhandle of Florida with 155-mph winds and ranked as third most intense hurricane to make landfall in the US based on central pressure (919 mbar).

Educational Opportunities

- IS-1000 Public Assistance Program & Eligibility
- IS-634 Introduction to FEMA's PA Program
- Governors Hurricane Conference [May 12-17, 2019]
 - ◊ TS12—Mitigation Funding
 - ◊ TS35—The Storm Has Passed: How do I Receive Federal Reimbursement **[FULL]**
 - ◊ WS116—HR Potential Storm Flooding Map
 - ◊ WS117—Post-Disaster Toolkit for Floodplain & Emergency Managers
 - ◊ WS129—Significant Inland Flooding
 - ◊ WS130—Mitigate Florida
- AWR-362—Flooding Hazards: Science & Preparedness
August 7, 2019 at Broward County EOC

Upcoming LMS Working Group Meetings

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

- June 12, 2019, Village of Palm Springs
- September 11, 2019, Town of Golf
- December 11, 2019, Village of Wellington

We always need our LMS members to volunteer for future meetings, so if you would like to host, please contact Joe at jmercuro@pbcbgov.org

The public is highly encouraged to attend.

Disaster Recovery Reform Act

The State Mitigation Bureau recently attended the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Stakeholder Workshop at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) where FEMA provided the explanation of a new mitigation grant program.

The Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) is a landmark law that advances FEMA's strategic priorities, but more importantly, includes game-changing reforms that represent significant opportunities for communities facing profound risks. The mitigation investment represented in the DRRA will not only reduce disaster costs, but will save lives and support communities in protecting critical infrastructure.

Section 1234 of the DRRA authorizes a national public infrastructure pre-disaster hazard mitigation grant program funded through the Disaster Relief Fund as a six percent set aside from disaster expenses (previously, the funding for pre-disaster mitigation grants relied on uncertain funding from Congress). The FEMA Administrator has named this new grant program **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)**. With this more reliable stream of funding, communities will be able to plan and execute mitigation programs to help reduce disaster risk. This change contributes greatly to building a culture of preparedness which is Goal #1 of the FEMA Strategic Plan.

Since the BRIC program was approved, FEMA has been researching, planning, and identifying resources for the program. And as they continue to build BRIC, gathering the input of critical stakeholders like State Hazard Mitigation Officers, State Directors, Tribes, and local communities will be key to ensuring the program continues our legacy of benefitting communities across the country through meaningful mitigation projects.

As far as we understand, this new mitigation grant program will replace the current Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program starting in Fiscal Year 2020. FEMA is still determining how they would like to design the program and now is our chance to provide input.

If you have thoughts or opinions on how the new BRIC program should be designed, please feel free to send Ms. Laura Waterman of the Mitigation Planning Unit your thoughts and comments in a detailed email [Laura.Waterman@em.my.florida.com]. The plan is to compile several ideas and thoughts from Florida and submit them all to FEMA. If you would like to submit your comments on your own, FEMA indicated they would be adding a post to IdeaScale in the coming weeks.

