

Santa Rosa County
Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Task Force
Steering Committee
November 15, 2006
Milton, Florida

The Santa Rosa County LMS Task Force met on the above date with 12 members present. A copy of the sign in sheet showing attendees is attached. Walker called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

D. Adams moved approval of the minutes from the August 2, 2006 meeting; Carden seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

Approval of Bernath Place Bridge project

Walker said the primary order of business is discussion and inclusion of the Bernath Place bridge project on the LMS (Local Mitigation Strategy) project list. Combs said Karyn Farris has submitted an application to improve the bridge going into Bernath Place that was damaged by Hurricane Ivan. Combs said this bridge is the only entrance to the subdivision, and the homeowners are requesting assistance to harden the bridge to withstand substantial storms.

Joanne Pearson said the homeowners have received estimates from three marine companies, and all three companies recommend the strategy outlined in the grant application. She said the homeowners will provide the 25% match from homeowner association dues. Pearson the homeowners understand there may possibly be a special assessment. Combs said the improvements include deeper pilings, additional cross beams, improved decking material, and strapping at an estimated cost of \$200,000.00.

Combs said the homeowners association will be applying for an HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) competitive grant. D. Adams asked if there is a deadline date. Combs said the deadline is in the spring of 2007. D Adams asked the number of lots in the subdivision. Combs said there are 76 lots. There was discussion regarding the extent of damage to the bridge during Hurricane Ivan and the railroad company allowing the homeowners' use of railroad property until the bridge was repaired. Jerry Johns said the bridge is currently operational.

Thornhill asked several questions with regard to the planned bridge improvements and whether or not the improvements will restrict water flow. After discussion it was decided the improvements will not change the water flow. There was also discussion concerning whether the county will be the applicant. Walker said he felt it will help if the county is the applicant.

M. Adams moved approval of the Bernath Place bridge project being added to the LMS project list; Thornhill seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

My Safe Florida Home Hardening Application

Combs updated the LMS committee on the My Safe Florida hardening application. She said the county is working with WFRPC (West Florida Regional Planning Council) on the low to moderate income home grant applications. Combs said currently county staff is working through the extensive administrative requirements of the grant. She said if Santa Rosa County decides to apply for non low to moderate income homes there will only be 6 to 8 applications due to grant administration. Combs said 12 to 13 homes will be submitted for low to moderate income hardening projects. She said this is a \$5,000.00 per home state grant to provide shutters or hardening of homes. Combs said the focus will be on shutter projects. She said the match for the low to moderate income homes will come from the RCMP (Residential Construction Mitigation Program) and the non low to moderate income match will be paid by the homeowners.

Walker discussed state and county press releases regarding this program. He said there have been some problems getting the program operational. Combs said the deadline date of the program has been extended several times.

Update of Ivan and Dennis Hazard Mitigation project applications

Combs said all of the residential shutter program applications have passed through the State approval process and have been sent to FEMA for approval. She said she has a list of all the grant applications submitted, and she read aloud the approved projects. D. Adams asked if the list is only Santa Rosa County projects. Walker said the City of Milton will receive direct notification on their projects. Combs said the City of Milton projects are included in the list but none of those projects have been approved or denied yet.

Walker said the county drainage projects are a two step process. He said the contracts for engineering have been approved by FEMA, and the county is soliciting Request for Proposals from consulting engineering firms. Carden said the Town of Jay's project has been approved. Gallup asked if FEMA has a time limit to approve the applications. Combs said the projects will be approved or denied within 24 months from the application date. Walker said it is a long process, but the applications are for large projects. He said anyone needing assistance with an application can contact Sharon Marsh or Josy Combs. Walker said Santa Rosa County has had more applications approved than anyone else. Combs agreed.

Other Business & Public Comments

Combs said she anticipates the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program to open in the early part of next year. She said this program will be for elevation projects. Thornhill said there will be \$100 million available to use towards these competitive grants nationwide. Combs said a set percentage will be allocated for the State of Florida. Thornhill noted after Hurricane Ivan, Santa Rosa County had over 700 repetitive losses.

Heileman discussed a Hazard Mitigation Workshop she and Daniel Hahn (Emergency Management) attended a few weeks ago. She said the main focus was integrating hazard mitigation planning into the county's Comprehensive Plan. Heileman said the DCA (Department of Community Affairs) contracted consultants to research data and analysis to come up with a profile for Santa Rosa County. She said the profile is located on the

DCA website. Heileman said DCA will be awarding more points for grants for people who have their LMS projects included in the Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Plan. She said in the future, with new legislation, Santa Rosa County needs to make sure the LMS projects are included in the strategies of the Comprehensive Plan. Heileman said there is a list of recommendations for Santa Rosa County on the DCA website. Combs said DCA will be moving towards awarding more grants to areas that have a set plan in place.

Heileman said there was also discussion at the workshop concerning development of a Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan and inclusion of wildfire hazards for Santa Rosa County.

Next Meeting Date/Adjournment

The next scheduled meeting of the LMS Committee will be Wednesday, February 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center.

There being no further business to come before the committee at this time, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.