

Santa Rosa County Multi-Jurisdictional 2019 Flood Mitigation Plan Evaluation Report

Introduction

Santa Rosa County first joined the Community Rating System in October 1993. The County has been an active participant in the development and implementation of the Santa Rosa County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Plan since its inception in the late 1990s. Until 2010, the LMS Plan also served as the community's floodplain management plan. While the County had made significant progress with a dual-use LMS Plan, there was still need for a mitigation plan specifically focused on flood impacts in Santa Rosa County and within the jurisdictions of the Town of Jay, the City of Milton, and the City of Gulf Breeze. On January 6, 2009 the Local Mitigation Strategy Task Force authorized the formation of a Flood Mitigation Plan Task Force for this purpose. The Flood Mitigation Plan Task Force met over a period of approximately twelve months to complete the Flood Mitigation Plan. On February 10, 2011, the Santa Rosa County Commission officially adopted the *Santa Rosa County Multi-Jurisdictional Flood Mitigation Plan*. The plan was approved by FEMA on June 13, 2011. A copy of the plan is available at the Santa Rosa County Flood Plain Management Office and on the County's website.

To ensure there is a continuing and responsive planning process, the following procedure is included in the Santa Rosa County Multi-Jurisdictional Flood Mitigation Plan (Section Eleven):

The Floodplain Management Plan Task Force responsible for the development of this plan shall meet annually in the month of August. Prior to the meeting, the Floodplain Manager and Grants and Special Projects Director will jointly prepare a draft Floodplain Management Plan Evaluation Report that will be presented at the annual August meeting. The Task Force will review and discuss the report, after which it may be revised before the Task Force adopts it. The report shall include:

- *A review of the original plan*
- *A review of any floods that occurred during the previous calendar year*
- *A review of the action items in the original plan, including how much was accomplished during the previous year*
- *A discussion of why any action items were not completed or why implementation is behind schedule*
- *Recommendations for new projects or revised action items. Such recommendations shall be subject to approval by the County Commission as amendments to the adopted plan*

A Review of the Original Plan

A five-year plan update of the *Santa Rosa County Multi-Jurisdictional Flood Mitigation Plan* has been completed. The Plan was approved by the State of Florida on May 18, 2016 and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on May 26, 2016.

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A Review of Any Floods That Occurred During the Previous Calendar Year

The county has multiple departments including the Emergency Operations Center, the Public Works Department and the Floodplain Management Office that record flooding events and these events are also documented in our Computer Department's and GIS records for future planning purposes. There have been no recorded flooding events since the 2018 Flood evaluation report developed in October 2018.

A Review of the Action Items in the Original Plan

Previously, action plans items have been successfully addressed, with most items being either pursued or completed effectively.

A Discussion of Why Any Action Items Were Not Completed

Unsuccessful action items were discussed and either modified or replaced with an item the Flood Mitigation Plan Task Force deemed more likely to be successful.

Recommendations for New Projects or Revised Action Items

The *Santa Rosa County Multi-Jurisdictional Flood Mitigation Plan* has been in effect for approximately 8 years. During this time, many of the action items have either been completed or have progressed considerably. As a result of the April 30, 2014 and June 2017 flooding events, many areas in the county have been identified as needing additional stormwater/drainage improvements. The Local Mitigation Strategy Task Force will continue to address these problem areas and adjust the LMS project priority listing for consideration of mitigation grant funding.

Mitigation Projects that have been completed since the development of the Flood Mitigation Plan include Pace Lane and Patterson Lane and Chipper Way and Maranatha Lane areas in Pace and the Camden Drive Drainage project in Holley by the Sea. Mitigation projects that are currently underway include the Venetian Way/Coronado Drive and Settlers Colony Expansion (west of Coronado Drive and east of Naval Live Oaks) areas in Gulf Breeze. The drainage project for Ranchettes/Whisper Bay Sub (Gulf Breeze) is currently in the right-of-way acquisition phase.

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Additional actions by the Board of County Commissioners to improve drainage in the county include:

- Approval of \$5 million for construction award of the Pace (Tiburon) drainage improvement project to be completed in late 2020 or early 2021.
- Approval of \$304,000 for engineering phase of the Metron Estates drainage improvement project. The design is substantially complete and two HMGP grant applications have been submitted.
- Up to \$619k for clearing and cleaning HBTS platted drainage easements. Coordination with the consulting engineer continues to work towards placing the project under contract. Design and permitting will take approximately 365 days.
- Approval of up to \$175,000 to design two additional projects in HBTS, drainage improvements to Sunrise Drive (north of Marlin St), and upgrade of culverts in a portion of East Bay Blvd. Sunrise Drive encompasses the main entrance to Holley by the Sea and is a primary north-south road for the subdivision. This project will provide culvert upgrades to eliminate drainage bottlenecks and provide better north-south drainage. Ditch regrading is also a part to this project. East Bay Blvd. naturally drains west into East Bay. This project will increase the size of existing culverts under East Bay Blvd. This work will increase and better convey stormwater runoff to the outfalls into East Bay.
- Request for proposals to improve drainage through realignment of driveway culverts and other drainage infrastructure in select areas in HBTS. Survey work is complete and in-house design is underway.
- Reallocation of Public Works resources that will result in improved capacity for completing drainage maintenance. Some mowing operations have been outsourced, and additional personnel are working on drainage maintenance throughout the county. Record keeping has been established to document efforts.

The Board has programmed additional projects in HBTS in future year's LOST Capital Plans including:

- Tom King Bayou East Branch Channel Restoration Design Phase Project is currently under contract with a consulting engineer. Design and permitting will take approximately 450 days.
- West Williams Creek Channel Restoration Design Phase Project is currently under contract with a consulting engineer. Design and permitting will take approximately 450 days.

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Santa Rosa County has been exceptionally active and proactive concerning flood mitigation since the development of the Flood Mitigation Plan. The following is a summary of specific activities undertaken by the County to strengthen flood mitigation:

Community Outreach

As further described in the attached Plan for Public Information, the Floodplain Management Office works in coordination with the Division of Emergency Management to conduct a variety of community outreach activities throughout the year. Outreach by stakeholders is also encouraged and supported by staff.

Floodplain Management

- Conducted three Realtor/Lender/Agent workshops.
- Attended and presented at Sentinel Site Cooperative Partnership on September 18, 2019.
- Flood Safety Awareness Week resolution in 2019
- Flyers produced by Florida Department of Emergency Management were reviewed and distributed as needed to kiosks and local agencies for public availability.
- Updated the floodplain website twice in 2018 and 2019.

Emergency Response Preparedness

Outreach/Presentations/Expos

- Leadership Santa Rosa site visit November 15, 2018
- Bike Safety events December 17, 18 and 20, 2018
- Navarre CERT – Hurricane Round Table January 23, 2019
- Pea Ridge Elementary Career Day on February 15, 2019
- College and Career Day, Avalon Middle School March 15, 2019
- Senior Expo on March 21, 2019
- DOH Mommy and Me Walk on March 27, 2019
- Spoke at UWF- PSC campus on preparedness April 12, 2019
- Hurricane Awareness at First Presbyterian Church, Pensacola on April 29, 2019
- ESOL Family Night on May 2, 2019
- Annual Hurricane Exercise May 8, 2019
- First Responder Sunday at Marcus Point Baptist Church May 19, 2019
- SRSO Open House June 1, 2019
- Milton Community Center Lunch and Learn on Emergency Preparedness on June 5, 2019
- Preparedness Talk, Ryan’s Restaurant on June 6, 2019
- Tropical Town Hall June 20, 2019

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- Preparedness Q and A at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on July 28, 2019
- Healthy Start Coalition event June 29, 2019
- SRC Employee Health Fair on July 30, 2019
- National Night Out August 6, 2019
- Home Depot Storm Preparedness event September 7, 2019
- Senior Fall Expo on September 12, 2019
- Spoke at Pace Chamber September 18, 2019
- Day of Service event October 4, 2019
- Home Depot Fire Safety event October 5, 2019

Radio Shows:

- Hurricane preparedness/flood safety @News Radio – 5/29/19
- Summer disaster preparedness @News Radio – 7/22/19
- Hurricane season/flood insurance @WRNE – 7/17/19
- Hurricane season/flood safety awareness @WRNE – 6/19/19
- Several discussions on the need for flood insurance, a disaster plan and turn around/don't drown on WEBY weekly call-in shows between 10/1/18 and 3/1/19 – did not keep track but at least 10-15.

Major Drainage Improvement or other Mitigation Project Construction

- Applications have been submitted through the FMA program for the last eight of nine years. Since the last plan update, three homes have been elevated. A total of 17 repetitive loss properties have been elevated or acquired. There are currently two SRL properties that are being considered for funding in the 2018 cycle.
- As a result of the completed master stormwater/drainage study in Holley By the Sea, two projects of have been implemented and Phase II of Camden Drive Drainage is currently under USACE review. Construction is anticipated to occur in 2020.
- In addition, the Board has identified a plan for maintenance of drainage easements in HBTS, which has been initiated.

To obtain a copy of the *Santa Rosa County Multi-Jurisdictional Flood Mitigation Plan*, visit the website location specified below or contact: Karen Thornhill, Floodplain Manager at 850-981-7029.

To obtain a copy of the *Santa Rosa County Multi-Jurisdictional Flood Mitigation Plan Annual Plan Evaluation Report*, contact:

Sheila Fitzgerald, Grants & Special Projects Director at 850-981-2016 or visit the following link:

<https://www.santarosa.fl.gov/164/Local-Mitigation-Strategy-Task-Force>