

Santa Rosa County Multi-Jurisdictional 2020 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.

Santa Rosa County Multi-Jurisdictional 2020 Flood Mitigation Plan Evaluation Report

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 damage assessment application for future planning purposes. Hurricane Sally effected our county on September 16, 2020. There was flooding in special and non-special flood hazard areas of structures, private land, and public infrastructure. Although the jurisdictions received some flooding, it was not as severe as previous events.

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 10 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, June 2017 and Hurricane Sally 2020 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 the following:

- Pace Lane and Patterson Lane Drainage Improvement in Pace
- Chipper Way and Maranatha Lane Area Drainage Improvement in Pace
- Camden Drive Outfall Improvement in Holley by the Sea. Phase II is in progress.
- Venetian Way/Coronado Drive Drainage Improvement east of Gulf Breeze in South Santa Rosa County

Santa Rosa County Multi-Jurisdictional 2020 Flood Mitigation Plan Evaluation Report

- Settlers Colony and Settlers Colony Expansion Drainage Improvements (west of Coronado Drive and east of Naval Live Oaks) in South Santa Rosa County
- Design and right-of-way acquisition for Ranchettes/Northridge/Whisper Bay Subdivision east of Gulf Breeze in South Santa Rosa County
- Sunrise Drive Drainage Improvements at an entrance on US 98 to Holley by the Sea (HBTS)
- Acquisition of flood-prone property at 2011 Aurora Drive in HBTS
- Clearing and cleaning HBTS platted drainage easements as approved by the BOCC based on recommendation from the Holley By the Sea Drainage Easement Maintenance Plan, May 2017

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. Construction is in progress.
- 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.
- 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. These projects are in progress.
- 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. *Awaiting status from PW.*
- 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. *Awaiting status from PW.*

The Board has programmed additional projects in HBTS including:

- Tom King Bayou East Branch Channel Restoration Design Phase Project is currently under contract with a consulting engineer. In design nearing completion.

Santa Rosa County Multi-Jurisdictional 2020 Flood Mitigation Plan Evaluation Report

- West Williams Creek Channel Restoration Design Phase Project is currently under contract with a consulting engineer. In design nearing completion.

Normally Santa Rosa County is exceptionally active and proactive concerning flood mitigation since the development of the Flood Mitigation Plan. Due to COVID-19 restrictions our outreach efforts have been severely restricted. 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

- Two Realtor/Lender/Agent workshops were scheduled and had to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Flood Safety Awareness Week resolution in 2020
- 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 once in 2020.

Emergency Response Preparedness

Outreach/Presentations/Expos

- Advanced Storm Spotter Class October 3, 2019
- EOC Day of Service October 4, 2019
- EOC GC Diplomacy Group November 5, 2019
- 911 Awareness West Navarre Primary School December 11, 2019
- Bike Safety and all hazards awareness at EOC December 19, 2019
- Navarre CERT – Hurricane Round Table January 23, 2020
- Pea Ridge Elementary Career Day on February 15, 2020
- College and Career Day, Central School February 20, 2020
- Hurricane Awareness at Pace Community Center January 25, 2020
- Hurricane Awareness at Gulf Breeze Community Center January 28, 2020

Santa Rosa County Multi-Jurisdictional 2020 Flood Mitigation Plan Evaluation Report

- Hurricane Awareness at Santa Rosa Auditorium February 4, 2020
- Hurricane Awareness at Jay Community Center February 18, 2020
- Hurricane Awareness at Navarre Visitor's Center February 22, 2020
- Annual Hurricane Exercise May 8, 2020 – Cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions

Radio Shows:

- Hurricane preparedness/flood safety @ Pep-Talk Radio – 2/12/2020
- Summer disaster preparedness @News Radio – 7/22/2020
- Hurricane season/flood insurance @WRNE – 7/17/2020
- Hurricane season/flood safety awareness @WRNE – 6/19/2020

Major Drainage Improvement or other Mitigation Project Construction

- Applications have been submitted through the federal Flood Mitigation Assistance (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. Two severe repetitive loss (SRL) properties have been funded for elevation in the 2018 cycle.

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:

Jared Lowe, Grants & Special Programs Coordinator at 850-981-2017 or visit the following link:
<https://www.santarosa.fl.gov/164/Local-Mitigation-Strategy-Task-Force>