

Santa Rosa County
Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Task Force
Steering Committee
February 2, 2005
Milton, Florida

The Santa Rosa County LMS Task Force met on the above date with 19 members present. A copy of the sign in sheet showing attendees is attached. The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. Vice-Chairman Scott Paul asked all attendees to introduce themselves. He noted Chairman Dave Ling is at a conference in Orlando.

Approval of Minutes

Steve Ratliff moved approval of the minutes of January 12, 2005; Donna Adams seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

DMA2K Plan Review & Approval

Paul said Larry McDonald will present an overview of the DMA2K plan. He said the DMA2K Plan is ready for approval by the LMS committee. Paul said after the committee approves the plan it will be forwarded to Santa Rosa County and the municipalities for approval to transmit the plan to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Paul announced the scheduled FEMA Long Term Mitigation Meeting on February 3, 2005 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to be held at Pensacola Junior College Milton Campus.

McDonald said the DMA2K plan is complete. He said Hank Erickson, DCA Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation, said it will take approximately 30 to 45 days to get the DMA2K plan reviewed by DCA and FEMA. McDonald said Santa Rosa County will meet the April 15, 2005 deadline for the HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program).

McDonald requested the committee consider approving the plan for transmittal to local governments. He said issues on the initiatives list can be discussed separately because the initiatives will always be an appendix to the plan. McDonald said the DMA2K plan is now available on the county website. He expressed his appreciation to Aleta Floyd and Val Jarvis, SRC Computer Department, for all their hard work. McDonald gave a demonstration of the DMA2K plan on the county website explaining the appendixes and some of the natural hazard assessments. He said the initiatives section is intentionally left blank because the committee is still building the initiatives list.

Paul said the date for finalizing initiatives is April 15, 2005. Lydia McConnell asked if the local governments will need to take some type of action for the plan to be transmitted to DCA. McDonald said at previous meetings the committee decided to go through a transmittal phase. He said each local government jurisdiction will be responsible for a resolution adopting the plan. Adams asked if there is a draft resolution. McDonald recommended using the resolution from the old plan. He said he will forward a copy of the old resolution to each entity.

Paul said this part of the process is an opportunity for the municipalities and the unincorporated areas of the county to take local action they deem appropriate to encourage public comment. He said the media and public notification function of this committee has historically done a good job of making citizens aware of these meetings. Paul said the individual communities and unincorporated area need to stimulate and receive public comment as the resolutions are approved.

Paul Kannon said he has not heard very much about this project and requested the county let the unincorporated areas know more about what is taking place. Warren Brown suggested each county commissioner have a town meeting in his district. Paul said this committee encourages maximum public input and involvement. He said the plan is easily accessible on the county website. Paul said committee members are available to assist communities wishing to hold a public meeting.

McDonald said before DMA2K came along this committee was starting to focus on community outreach to businesses, the public, and Chambers of Commerce. He said now that the plan is complete, the committee can continue this process. Kannon suggested additional advertising for public notification of scheduled meetings. Adams said she felt the public will be more interested in the initiatives that will personally affect them. She complimented McDonald on the DMA2K plan. Kannon agreed with Adams. He said the residents will be interested in the initiatives associated with their community. Kannon asked if there was any input from the Navarre area on the initiatives. Tony Gomillion said the county encourages public interest. He said projects local governments hear about from the public are on the initiatives list. There was discussion on the procedures for a project to be added to the initiatives list, and how the plan was developed. McDonald said the DMA2K plan and/or the initiatives list can be amended. He said this new plan is much more thorough.

Bill Stubstad said FEMA is having a public meeting tomorrow night, and he suggested coordinating with FEMA to let the public know about the DMA2K plan and its availability on the county website. McDonald said a flyer will be the best way to get the information to the public. He said he will e-mail a flyer to the FEMA representative for distribution at tomorrow night's meeting.

Donna Adams moved approval of the DMA2K plan and transmittal of the plan to local governments; Linda Carden seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

McDonald said the plan is being submitted to DCA and FEMA to meet a deadline imposed upon local governments. He said the mitigation committee was around long before the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and the committee will continue to meet after submission of the plan. He said the DMA2K plan is required by Florida Administrative Code chapter 9G-22. McDonald said once approved by FEMA and DCA, the plan can be modified locally over the next five years without going back to FEMA and DCA for approval. He said there will be many years for public outreach and adjustments to improve and enhance mitigation in this county. McDonald said this step is actually the beginning of the plan.

Current Mitigation Planning Issues:

1. Initiatives Listings and Nominations – Gomillion said there are several Emergency Management items on the county's list that are not on the initiatives list. McDonald said he will be adding these items. Stubstad said the Milton Community Center is a competed project that was left off the list, and he noted one typing error in the plan. The other municipalities said their initiatives are included in the list. McDonald said nomination forms have been turned in on projects with unknown costs. He said project estimates will have to be done before they can be included on the initiatives list. McDonald said approximate costs are needed for finalizing the scoring of initiatives. Adams asked when the dollar figures are needed. McDonald said before April 15th.

Rosalynn Bates said an update is needed on completed projects. She said the (PDM) Pre-disaster Mitigation grant cycle is open and the deadline for those projects is March 4th. McDonald said PDM funding is national and much more competitive. He said \$550 million is available in Florida through HMGP.

2. Presentation by Ms. Ann Patton (representing FEMA Post-Ivan Long-Term Recovery) – Ann Patton introduced FEMA representatives Jerry Powers, Jean Neptune, and Nancy Parker. She discussed the significance of completing the DMA2K plan. Patton said the Long Term Recovery Plan will work day to day with the local mitigation strategy process. She discussed the FEMA Long Term Recovery planning process. Patton said the plan is for areas that are hit very hard by disaster and have the potential to recover if they receive certain kinds of help. She said FEMA has brought in experts from all over the county. Patton said there are already some long term recovery processes underway in Santa Rosa County. She discussed the meeting scheduled February 3rd at Pensacola Junior College. Patton said this will be the first public meeting in Santa Rosa County. She said the meeting will be an open house

type meeting, and the public will have an opportunity to submit their comments. Patton said FEMA will be working with the county as a public manager for one year to implement this plan. McDonald asked if there will be one FEMA manager for each county. Patton said she felt there will be one FEMA manager funded for each county. Paul, on behalf of the committee, thanked FEMA for their direction and service.

Staffing Addition

McDonald said Bates has joined Ecology and Environment, Inc. and will be working with the LMS committee as necessary. He said this leaves a Red Cross vacancy on the LMS committee. McDonald said there are other vacancies as well. He said membership issues will be discussed at the next meeting.

Other Business & Public Comments

None

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting of the LMS committee will be April 6, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at the Santa Rosa County Emergency Operations Center.

There being no further business to come before the committee at this time, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.