

MEETING NOTES

Hillsborough County LMS Working Group Meeting

Thursday August 5, 2021; 1:30 PM

Via GoTo Webinar

Attendees

Facilitators: Troy Salisbury (Hazard Mitigation Manager), Monica Martin (Hazard Mitigation Planner & LMS Coordinator)

Officers: Elizabeth Dunn (Chair), Whit Remer (Vice-Chair)

Committee Members: Kevin Moran, Christina Hummel, Kyle Dollman, Bill Twaite, Ben Allushuski, John Antapasis, Simon Bollin, Shawn College, Jose De Jesus, Derek Doughty, Daniel Gessman, Diego Guerra, Catherine Hayes, Eugene Henry, Celeste Lau, Angie Leslie, Colleen Marshall, Brett Maternowski, Brian McCarthy, Sheila McNamara, Trinity Miller, Robert Parris, Carmine Pisano, Andrea Roshaven, Angela Salter, Kayla Smart, Ashley Tharp, Anthony Vallone, and Allison Yeh.

Guest Attendees: Rod Braun, Dallas Evans, Lisa Moeller, Robert Wassum, and Chris Zambito.

I. Welcome

a. Introductions and Attendance

Meeting started at 1:30 p.m. The Chair, Elizabeth Dunn, introduced herself and Mr. Salisbury read through the live attendees list.

II. Guest Speakers/Presentations

a. Rod Braun – Climate & Coastal Resilience Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy (FL)

- Mr. Braun quickly introduced himself and discussed the mission of The Nature Conservancy, who they are, and their coordinating Florida's climate & resilience collaboratives before delving into how they are working to increase coastal resilience & climate adaptation by restoring natural infrastructure and implementing nature-based demonstration projects in Florida. He provided some examples of natural infrastructure like salt marshes, oyster reefs, coral reefs and beach dunes protecting and providing numerous co-benefits for coastal communities (ex: flood control and co-benefits like food source, recreation, etc.). He mentioned benefits of mangrove protection, which includes reducing storm surge and minimizing inland flooding.
- Mr. Braun highlighted how The Nature Conservancy is a leader in studies (ex: finding benefit-costs of natural infrastructure [*FL reefs provide \$675M in flood-protection benefits every year; mangroves protect the global economy from over \$65BN in damage each year; salt marshes during Hurricane Sandy reduced losses up to 30% in some areas*]), doing collaborations with Risk Management Solutions (RMS) to see the values of mangroves for storm loss reduction [*Hurricane Irma study*], and comparing the cost effectiveness of nature-based and coastal adaptation [*Case study from the Gulf Coast of the U.S.*]). He also mentioned some projects in Florida (Resilient Island: Palm Beach County; Morningside Park: Miami; Brittany Bay Park: Miami Beach).
- Mr. Braun spoke on restoration optimization for resilience to help reduce

flooding risks and serve as models that can be replicated elsewhere, risk transfers (ex: coral reef insurance in Cancun, Mexico), proof of concept (ex: Hurricane Delta in October 2020 triggered the first coral reef insurance payout), mangrove insurance feasibility, and developing methodologies to create pathways for developing mangrove insurance. He ended his presentation stating nature-based solutions are part of a layered approach.

- Questions were taken from the working group and Gene Henry wanted to know how can the LMS WG can help the County to do more of these types of projects and prioritize projects with nature-based solutions & integrate these solutions with harder asset solutions. Mr. Salisbury advised the County will look at this with the group as we dive deeper into prioritizing projects as we move forward. Kevin Moran asked if there was an appropriate length, size, etc. for an ideal project, and Mr. Braun replied stating the project needs to be scaled up to have more benefit, especially when combating storm surge.

III. Action Items

a. Discussion/Approval of Previous Minutes

Christina Hummel moved a motion to approve the April 2021 meeting minutes (as is) and Gene Henry seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

b. Amendment to the LMS and Office of Emergency Management EMAP Accreditation *(Tabled)*

Mr. Salisbury advised Kayla Smart would provide an overview of the EMAP Accreditation and the necessary modifications to the LMS. He also noted the modifications, which were not finalized, would be sent via e-mail and a vote for approval would be requested via e-mail in order to meet the deadline required by OEM and the accreditation staff. Ms. Smart advised the EMAP Accreditation is done every 3-5 years and they are in the process of doing their recertification. Part of their recertification process this year is making sure the hazard names, etc. match between the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and the LMS & a few minor edits within the LMS to provide greater consistency. Mr. Salisbury advised members to be on the lookout for the follow-up e-mail.

c. Discussion/Approval of Revised LMS Project Review Submittal Form

Mr. Salisbury advised the revised list was created since the previous form was very simple and the group had asked on multiple occasions for additional project information. He noted the newest version was created after reviewing ones made by neighboring jurisdictions and tailored it to what we are looking for. The City of Tampa would be the first ones to complete it so that we can determine if changes need to be made. Ms. Martin added the previous form was 1-page and they had worked with Whit Remer to create this version (based on Broward County's form). She reviewed the form with the working group and made the minimal edits suggested in real-time.

Christina Hummel moved a motion to approve the Project Review Form (with the modifications made during the meeting) and Gene Henry seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

d. City of Tampa Project Submittals [12 Projects]

Mr. Remer advised the City of Tampa will be proposing fire station retrofits to emphasize the hardening of public. John Antapasis advised the projects submitted are older stations that needed updated windows, door, and/or roofs, and it is important to harden these

types of structures as they shelter first responders and if damaged would impact daily emergency operations as well as critical operations during hurricanes, etc. Catherine Hayes added the City of Tampa had previously received funding for similar projects and retrofit funding for fire stations and police stations, so they would like to continue to add these types of projects on the lists.

Gene Henry moved a motion to approve the City of Tampa's group of 12 projects (12 separate items) and Christina Hummel seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Potential Grant Projects

- None

V. Grant Status/New Funding Opportunities

a. Internal (Hillsborough County) and external (neighboring municipalities, Counties, etc.) collaborations & coordination

- Ms. Martin advised the County submitted four (4) projects in July (2021) to the FDEP's Wastewater Grant Program and provided quick summary for each project submitted:
 - Gibsonton Septic-to-Sewer – Construction of new vacuum sewer systems
 - Ruskin Wimauma LPSS to Sewer – System replacement and infrastructure expansion
 - Van Dyke Flow Diversion – End of life replacement
 - SCADA Communications System Upgrade – End of life replacement

VI. Floodplain Management/CRS Update

a. Floodplain Update

- Kyle Dollman advised the new flood insurance rate maps would be available Oct 7, 2021 for the coastal areas in our County. He mentioned the County is continuing to abide by the Public Outreach Activity Plan to help let residents in the affected areas know of the changes and how they reach out to their insurance providers if they need to. Mr. Dollman recognized the County is currently working through their compliance period and is planning to start the process of updating more maps nearer to the end of the year. Lastly, he noted FEMA is revamping Risk Rating 2.0 and it will become effective Oct 1, 2021, which will change how properties are being rated.

b. CRS Update

- Ms. Hummel advised the annual CRS recertification was received for 2021. She mentioned they are working with a consultant to assist with the recertification process going into next year (2022). Ms. Hummel also noted she is working on the Program for Public Information (PPI) and will be scheduled a CRS meeting at the end of the month to discuss further.

VII. Updates from Key Stakeholders

a. Unincorporated Hillsborough County

• Innovation & Resiliency

• LMS Plan Documents uploaded to HCLMS webpage

Ms. Martin advised the webpage was updated per the group's request with LMS-related documents:

<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/public-safety/emergency-management/local-mitigation-strategy-documents>

Mr. Salisbury also highlighted the County is one of the only County's to have our LMS Plan be available online and is 508-compliant. Kudos were given to Chris Zambito and his team from Atkins for creating the document and assisting with the process to get it uploaded online.

- **Implementing 6-Month LMS Project List status reviews**

Ms. Martin advised instead of doing the reviews every year for the annual update, the County would be requesting updated project lists every 6-months (in preparation for the 2nd and 4th quarter meetings) from internal staff and municipalities.

- **Sustainability**

- Sheila McNamara advised the Green House Gas (GHG) inventory was nearing the end of the modeling stage as they look for reduction strategies and combine two (2) suitability plans into one. She highlighted they would go before board in September (2021) and will be circulating the final product within the next month.

- **Emergency Management**

- None

- **Planning Commission**

- **Update of the County's Coastal Management Element**

- Shawn College advised they were in the process of updating the County's Comprehensive Plan, which is a big update as it hasn't been done in years. He mentioned the Coastal Management Element is nearly complete, as they are waiting to be put on the Board's agenda for September 30, 2021 to transmit to the State with the intent to adopt and then have it be formally adopted by the BOCC in December (2021).

- **Update on the Environmental and Sustainability Element**

- Mr. College advised it had already been updated, is currently available online, and has been approved by the BOCC.

b. Cities within Hillsborough County (Tampa, Temple Terrace, Plant City)

- City of Tampa

- Mr. Antapasis mentioned the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant was completed for the region, and Tampa took the lead on it. He advised the project was COVID-19 based, addressed public health, healthcare, emergency medical services; fatality management; health and social services; logistics and supply chain management; and economic recovery. Mr. Antapasis reviewed the project tasks (after-action review, regional pandemic influenza framework, training, exercises) submitted last year, with a budget of \$990,000, and advised they should be hearing a decision soon. He noted once it is funded, they will be reaching out for support for implementation.

c. University of South Florida

- Daniel Gessman advised they are working on putting together a project proposal for a stormwater project for the County. Mr. Gessman also highlighted they have received their EMAP Accreditation and are the 8th active university in the country.

d. Adjacent Communities and Partners

- Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) – Allison Yeh advised the name has changed from Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). She also mentioned they have started a Hurricane Evacuation Shelter in Place Study to help supplement work emergency management is doing on plans and will be having a virtual open house on August 25, 2021. Ms. Yeh noted she would forward the information so it could be distributed to the group.

VIII. Quarterly Assessment of LMS Plan Document

- Ms. Martin advised the County is currently updating project lists and reviewing possible projects for the future. She reiterated if anyone has any future public events they will be attending or hosting that they feel would be hazard mitigation and/or resiliency-related to please advise her. Ms. Martin ended with advising the County is prepping for the annual LMS update and LMS WG elections.

IX. Old/New Business

- a. Mr. Henry asked if there were any projects the County planned to submit for the upcoming grants and if there were, to discuss with the group at this time. Mr. Salisbury advised once projects are chosen, information would be shared with the group, as the projects would need to be added to the project lists.

X. Announcements/Activities

- a. None

XI. Future Meetings

- a. Ms. Dunn mentioned the next meeting (Q4 = 4th quarter) is scheduled for November 4th, 2021 at 1:30 pm and will focus on officer elections, the LMS annual update, and the scheduling of LMS WG meetings for 2022. Ms. Martin added all LMS WG-related materials is always available on the public webpage. Ms. Dunn advocated for members to share the link with others they feel would be interested in the working group.

XII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. Christina Hummel moved a motion to adjourn, and Gene Henry seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.