

**MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA
LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MINUTES
February 21, 2024**

A public hearing of the Marion County Local Mitigation Strategy Committee was held on February 21, 2024 at 10:00am in the Marion County Growth Services Training Room, 2710 E. Silver Springs Boulevard, Ocala, Florida.

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am. Members present creating a quorum were: MCSO Emergency Management Erin Miller, Marion County BCC - Fire Ken McCann, City of Ocala Lawrence Doerffel, Ocala Metro Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP) Tamara Fleischhaker (10:06am), Ocala - Marion County Association of Realtors (OMCAR) Darlene Younce, Salvation Army Major Phillip Irish, HCA – Ocala Hospital Samuel Peppard and Marion County Citizen Marya Latson McMillan (10:18am). Staff members present were: Growth Services Transportation Planner Kenneth Odom, Planner II Marcus Lloyd and Staff Assistant Darlene A. Pocock.

Erin Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was noted that the meeting met the Sunshine Law requirements and Posting of Notice can be found on the Marion County Website.

Kenneth Odom introduced Planner Marcus Lloyd as one of our new staff members that the county will be bringing on as an LMS backup, to work on Resiliency Collaboratives and he will be another point-of-contact for this committee, outreach and other resources.

1. ACTION ITEMS:

1.1 Election of Chair/Vice-Chair

Annual nominations followed with Erin Miller nominated for Chairman by Larry Doerffel and Ken McCann to 2nd the motion. There were no other nominations and the motion to approve passed 8-0.

Nominations for the Vice Chairman position continued with Sean Lanier nominated by Larry Doerffel and Ken McCann to 2nd the motion. There were no other nominations and the motion to approve passed 8-0.

1.2 2021-02 Application Support

Marion County Fire Services recently was approved for the funding of a back-up generator for the Fires Services Command Center to the initial estimated amount of \$121,738. Unfortunately, under revised estimates, that amount has risen significantly. Fire Services is requesting a letter of support from the LMS Committee for a modification to the original application. (Marion County Fire Marshal Ken McCann will address the committee.)

Kenneth Odom presented the project and corresponding documents to the committee for the record, explaining that this item is technically no longer on the priority projects list because it was funded. He continued that we are seeking an additional letter of support because it is necessary to have a revision put in due to the estimate increase for the project.

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Mr. McCann stated that the initial project started back in 2021 at an estimate of \$116k-\$120k and was ready to go fully funded fall of 2023. The hard bid was received in January 2024 with a \$120k-\$225k cost. In consideration of post pandemic prices/inflation, and with support from his DEM contact, Mr. McCann has a letter drafted on behalf of the Fire Department and as project manager, asking for support of the increased funding. Once the letter is approved and signed by the LMS Chair, it will be resubmitted with the application process for reconsideration to provide additional funding for the departments.

Discussion continued stating that the same increases are being seen with the hospital's construction costs, the Real Estate market, with utilities and the need to place orders as far out as 18 months ahead.

Tamara Fleischhaker made a motion to **Approve**.
Marya Latson McMillan made the motion to second.

Motion to Approve - Passed 8-0

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2.1 2023 Annual Report

Staff transmitted the 2023 Annual Report to the Florida Division of Emergency Management on January 17, 2024. The Marion County Local Mitigation Strategy was found to be compliant with FAC 27P-22.004. Staff will present a brief synopsis of the Annual Report.

Ken Odom presented slides and individual copies and included the following noted issues/items:

- Input needed regarding the Land Development Code (LDC) update using each area of direct specialty/expertise
- CEP will be directly involved
- Land Use Designations – Zoning areas to be modified – growing – areas of concern – influx of multi-family – Fire will directly be affected – Realtors affected – DEP, etc.
- Timeline – 6 weeks to initiate or as soon as April/May
- One of the next two meetings with this group
- Mr. Odom will bring information to comment/input
- Awareness – new bills, etc.

3. COMMENTS:

3.1 Steering Committee/Work Group Comments

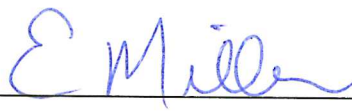
Mr. Odom stated that due to staffing and scheduling constraints, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council Resiliency Collaborative meetings have been attended virtually when available. Mr. Odom and Mr. Lloyd will pursue attending in Orlando, along with any other available members interested, and report back to the LMS.

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Updating Committee Alternate positions was discussed and candidate referrals are encouraged as to fill open positions.

- 3.2 Public Comments:** There was no one in the audience to bring forward any public comments and the chair closed the public portion of the hearing.
- 4. OTHER BUSINESS:** Next scheduled quarterly meeting: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM in the Growth Service Building – Training Room
- 5. MINUTES:** No meeting minutes were available for approval at this time.

ADJOURNED: The meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.

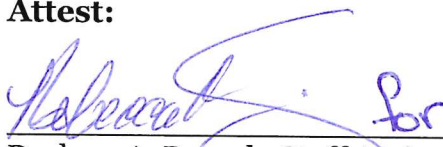


Erin Miller, Chair

10-15-25

Date

Attest:



Darlene A. Pocock, Staff Assistant IV

