

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

**MINUTES
November 01, 2023**

A public hearing of the Marion County Local Mitigation Strategy Committee was held on November 1, 2023 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 10:23 am. Members present creating a quorum were: MCSO Emergency Management Preston Bowlin, Marion County BCC - Fire Ken McCann, City of Belleview Bob Titterington, City of Ocala Lawrence Doerffel, Ocala Metro Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP) Tamara Fleischhaker, 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. Staff members present were: Transportation Planner Kenneth Odom and Staff Assistant Darlene A. Pocock.

Preston Bowlin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kenneth Odom requested that nominations be taken for a Chairman Pro Tem, as both the LMS Chairman and Vice Chairman were absent. A motion for approval passed 9 to 0 for nominee Preston Bowlin to act as Chairman Pro Tem during this November 1, 2023 meeting.

It was noted that the meeting met the Sunshine Law requirements and Posting of Notice can be found on the Marion County Website. (Dated 10-20-2023)

1. ACTION ITEMS:

1.1 Review and Approval of Project #2302-02

Marion County Environmental Services has submitted a new project to allow for the addition of five portable back-up generators into their inventory.

Kenneth Odom presented the project to the committee and explained the corresponding documents for the record.

Preston Bowlin made a motion to **Approve**.
Ken McCann made the motion to second.

Motion to Approve - Passed 9-0

1.2 Update Priority Projects List

Review scoring and staff recommended position of project #2302-02 in the Priority Projects List.

Kenneth Odom explained that once formal approvals/official declarations are received some projects will be removed from the current list. It was noted that the communication tower should be a 1st priority. Ken Odom stated that he will put a call into Tallahassee and check to see where in the review process this falls.

Preston Bowlin made a motion to **Approve**.
Tamara Fleischhaker made the motion to second.

Motion to Approve - Passed 9-0

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2. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2.1 Hurricane Mitigation Grant Program Update

2.2 R2C Risk & Vulnerability Advisory Committee

Discussions and Presentation given by Ken Odom and included the following noted issues/items:

- Obligations
- Vulnerable or most frequently being in disaster area to be identified
- 10% to 25% change – Define all requirements, statements and protections. Will bring back more information when it arrives – New programs – not enough documentation at this time – Legislation still working on
- Building resilience
- Hurricane Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) presentation given – Numbers discussed – 500 applications received
- Non-Disaster updates – as all notifications come in, send out to the LMS group so all seen and aware
- Clay Electric contacting LMS – Powerline resiliency – Wants to bury powerlines and protect from wind – Private organization – need to have a collaborative relationship, not private – Trying to set up and go through administrative / contractual (10 million cost estimate)
- SECO – expect Clay to be under same circumstance
- FMA – Dunnellon – Flooding – Is money available for 27th Avenue? – Need something for county to look at and a plan in place with Engineering behind it – Need to approach OCE – Specifically Trinity Catholic area
- Area frequently hit – Flood Controls – Can we nudge OCE to start somewhere – Stormwater and Road – Redesign? – Was raised approximately 25 years ago – could only do for ORW area - Pumping – major into DRA and not big enough
- Critical road – long been ID and as stands and not on a priority list
- Further discussion encourages – Pumps sitting out there at least 8-9 months of the year – Road is used if interstate closed down – if flooded, in accessible – 49th Street Project – 4 lane corridors
- Mitigate FL Annual Report: 5-year update – State has to do the same – Recently contacted by St Johns
- FDEM – annual update – offer comments and make aware that part of this committee – Observations – send to them and help improve the safety – ongoing right now
- On-Site meetings around the state
- FL enhanced State Hazard Mitigation – FL SHMP – all 67 LMS plans have been approved!
- New Liaison – Bridgette Carrillo – Regions 5, 8

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- Waiver Program – 350 million – specifically relevant to Hurricane Ian – Reduces match to 1.5% - Has ongoing immediate relief or a trimmed down allocation – will carry to next application

3. COMMENTS:

3.1 Steering Committee/Work Group Comments

- 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, January 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 11:01 AM.

J.P. BOWLIN For J.P. Bowlin
Erin Miller, Chair Date 11/18/25

Attest:


Darlene A. Pocock, Staff Assistant IV