

# Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group Meeting

**Date:** April 19, 2024; 9:30 AM

**Location:** Collier County South Regional Library; Meeting Room A/B (8065 Lely Cultural Pkwy; Naples, FL 34113)

**Attendees:** William Lang, Working Group Chair; Kelli Defedericis, Working Group Co-Chair; Amy Howard, Emergency Management Staff Liaison; Reg Buxton, Citizen Corps; Phil Snyderburn, Collier County Public Utilities & Solid Waste Division; Karen Vivian, LCEC; James Von Rintel, Interested Citizen; Matt Trent, North Collier Fire Rescue (attending for Kris Thomas; Lisa Loren, Salvation Army; Tim Rygiel, Collier County Facilities Management; Carl Alvarez NCH Systems; Storm Gewirtz, Collier County Growth Management (Stormwater); Kevin Carter, Port of the Islands CID (for Dan Truckey); Noah Dietrich, Naples Airport.

**Absent:** Sam Kroll, Florida Forest Service (Caloosahatchee District); Chris Byrne, City of Marco Island; Terry Smallwood, City of Everglades; Gabriel Torres, Collier County Public Schools; Mark Grajewski, Collier County Mosquito Control District; Chris Wolfe, Greater Naples Fire District; Robert Dorta, City of Naples; Carolina Maran, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)

**Committee Vacancies:** Collier County Parks & Recreation District; Collier County Growth Management Department; Immokalee Fire Control District

## I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began with introductions from all attendees. A quorum was achieved. Amy Howard was introduced as the new Emergency Management Staff Liaison, replacing Jennifer Schmidt. Storm Gewirtz was welcomed as the newly approved alternate member for the Public Utilities Department.

## II. Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Approved (without changes or corrections) by Motion & Second from Jim Von Rintel & Carl Alvarez

## III. Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Update

The group discussed the ongoing process of updating the LMS to reflect current hazards and mitigation strategies. This update is crucial for maintaining FEMA and state approval for future HMGP funding.

- The LMS is being updated to reflect current hazards and mitigation strategies using a third-party contractor. Once the update is completed there will be opportunity for public review and comment.
- FEMA and the state of Florida review and approve LMS updates prior to adoption by the County Board of Commissioners.

Notes: These minutes are intended to capture the key points of the discussion. They do not necessarily reflect every detail or nuance of the conversation.

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## IV. Project Update and Prioritization

The group reviewed two projects submitted for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding related to Hurricane Idalia. The Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group prioritizes projects for HMGP funding. Collier County has a tiered system for allocating HMGP funds based on hurricane impact. Both projects were thoroughly discussed and scored on the ranking sheet:

- **North Collier Fire District:** Project proposes retrofitting windows and doors at three fire stations for increased hardening against hurricanes.
  - **Motion:** A motion was made by Jim Von Rinteln and seconded by Tim Rygiel to approve.
  - **Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.
- **Port of the Islands Canal Irrigation Pump Station:** Project entails floodproofing the exterior, elevating electrical systems, and adding backup power.
  - **Motion:** A motion was made by Jim Von Rinteln and seconded by Carl Alvarez to approve.
  - **Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

### Additional Information:

- There is still time to apply for HMGP funding for Hurricane Idalia projects until June 7, 2024.

## V. Public Comment:

A member of the public raised concerns (via email) about the potential impact of Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) on the power grid. The group engaged in a discussion about EMP threats and potential costs for mitigation strategies. Will consider mentioning this in the risk assessment as a part of manmade hazards.

## VI. Next Steps & Closing Remarks

- Meeting location: The group agreed to continue meeting at the current location.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting scheduled for July 19, 2024, at 9:30 AM.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting scheduled for October 18, 2024, at 9:30 AM.
- The county's vulnerability assessment to identify critical infrastructure and their susceptibility to natural disasters, including sea level rise, was addressed.
  - The need for an updated critical infrastructure list was acknowledged. The subcommittee will develop the list by starting with the building department's list and refining it further.
  - A subcommittee of the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group will be established to participate in the vulnerability assessment and critical infrastructure list development.

## VII. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM.

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