

March Quarterly Meeting Notes

Thank you to all of you who attended our meeting on March 18th. We had 68 attendees representing 50 agencies. Curt Sommerhoff, the Director of Emergency Management, welcomed everyone to the LMS Meeting and thanked them for their continued support.

Cathie Perkins, LMS Coordinator/Chair welcomed everyone and asked new attendees to identify themselves and welcomed them to our meeting. Group announcements including an afternoon session for the CRS Subcommittee with a webinar on Program for Public Information, the CRS Subcommittee meeting on March 24th (see LMS Calendar for more info) and the annual Feel the Force Event which will take place on May 30th at the Museum of Science. Ms. Perkins encouraged the CRS communities to support the event on the 30th for public outreach credit.

Ms. Perkins, introduced Josh Overmyer from the Florida CRS Initiative. Mr. Overmyer spoke to the group about the four planners from the state who are available to assist with CRS participation, are available for workshops for community staff, are working to help get additional credit points, liaison with FEMA, assist with planning and also help publicize the flood insurance discount. Mr. Overmyer spoke of how in Florida 45 % of communities participate and this nets an annual savings of over \$180 Million. Nationally there are only 6% of community participation for an annual savings of over \$360 Million. Florida is leading the way, but we have more work to do. Mr. Overmyer spoke about the CRS activities and the numerous agencies that communities work with to help get credits including: various State agencies, Water Management Districts, State Dam Safety Office, Emergency Management, NFIP and FEMA. Mr. Overmyer showed how much money on an average annual premium could be saved if additional freeboard is used in construction. For a house build at Base Flood Elevation in an AE zone the premium is just under \$2000, but a house with one foot of freeboard saves 49% on their flood insurance and two feet of freeboard saves 63%.

Josh also recommended the following resources for more information on CRS:
<http://www.floridadisaster.org/mitigation/CRS>

LMS Calendar

Next LMS Quarterly Meeting:

Date: June 17, 2015

Time: 9:30-11:30 am

Location: TBD

All Working Group Members and the public are welcome to attend.

SubCommittee Meetings:

CRS/Floodplain Managers

March 24, 2015

10:30 AM

Aventura Government Center 5th floor
19200 W Country Club Drive, Aventura

Future Quarterly Meetings:

June 17, 2015

September 16, 2015

December 9, 2015



COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM



Note: Annual premiums calculated using the NFIP Flood Insurance Manual, October 1, 2014, for a one-story single-family home with no basement, no enclosure, and full replacement coverage. Premiums are based on the maximum available coverage of building coverage of \$250,000 for building and \$100,000 for contents coverage. Zone V building is assumed to be free of obstructions.



<http://www.crsresources.org>

For more information you can reach Josh Overmyer at 850-519-7955 or josh.overmyer@em.myflorida.com.

Our next speaker, was Earl King who founded CRS Max Consultants, Inc. Mr. King is one of a number of contractors who can provide assistance to communities that are interested in joining CRS or who may need assistance with maintaining their CRS. Mr. King spoke of the three WOWs of CRS. The first Wow is that this is a program where you can get money back in savings from the government. The second Wow is how complex it can be. With 19 activities and numerous departments to coordinate with and a new User Manual that is 614 pages, it can be a daunting task. The third Wow is the reaction of the person tasked with getting the work done to get into or stay in the program. Mr. King mentioned that help is available to communities through the ISO/CRS Specialists, of which there are four in the State, The Florida CRS Initiative, CRS User Groups, and Consultants. CRS Max can help communities and is dedicated exclusively working only on NFIP /CRS program. For more information you can reach CRS Max at 954-421-7794 or crsmaxinc@bellsouth.net.

Next Ms. Perkins provided an overview of the status of the LMS five year update. On March 17th the plan was resubmitted to the State for review. Fingers crossed we get it approved this time. The expiration on the current plan is May 10th. Once we get it back approved, we will let all of the stakeholders know and make it available so you can do a local adoption while we send it to the Board of County Commissioners for their adoption.

The next segment of the meeting was entitled “Moving Forward” to discuss challenges and opportunities as the program continues:

1. Mandatory Project Fields – all new projects must have all of the mandatory fields completed in order to be saved. This will reduce the need for me to chase after you for information. Existing projects should all be up to date now. Please verify your projects.
2. New Potential Fields within WebEOC – it was noted that we are trying to work on adding the ability for you to select multiple basins, allow you to download more fields, also add an identifier you can use to indicate additional departments/divisions or tracking numbers that may be unique to your programs to help you with making updates. It was also noted that the grants selection should be updated to better reflect grants. It was also posed if we could allow the system to upload shapefiles, this will be researched.
3. Mandatory Project Updates – currently we required you updated your projects two times a year. This is a carryover from when they were Word documents and we did not have real time tracking like we do now in WebEOC. Failure to update projects on an annual basis will mean they will be moved to the Inactive List. Ms. Perkins proposed that we move to one update per year and



opened it up for discussion. It was suggested that we allow more time for the points of contact to ensure updates were done before they were moved to Inactive. It was proposed we use the fiscal year cycle as a determination. Ms. Perkins proposed we make October 31st the deadline for annual updates. A grace period of two months will be allowed during which time the points of contacts for the projects will be notified and have until December 31st to make the updates. By January 1st those projects not updated will be moved to Inactive Status. A vote was taken and was unanimously supported. This will be updated in the LMS Plan.

4. Inactive Projects and permanent deletion. The next item of discussion revolved around what happens once a project becomes Inactive. Once a project has been deemed Inactive due to failure to update, the point of contact will be notified that they have until the first Quarterly meeting (the third Wednesday of March) to make the requisite updates. Failure to do so during that time will mean the Inactive Projects will be put up for a vote to the Working Group for permanent deletion at the first quarterly meeting. It was opened up for discussion. The motion was put to the group for a vote and it was unanimously approved.
5. Points of Contact – all attendees were asked to provide three layers of contacts at their agency to ensure that the LMS Coordinator can send project notices to the right people and also reduce the chances of turnover of staff and loss of contact. For those of you who were not at the meeting please provide me with this information if you have projects.
6. The next item was to discuss additional opportunities or ways for us to get back to more strategic planning. It was opened for discussion as to other groups we might want to focus on to include as subcommittees or meetings. The example of perhaps working with partners in areas that experience repetitive flooding or areas where planned construction/development will be occurring so we can have the various stakeholders present and discuss concerns and potential solutions was brought up. Meeting with the professional groups such as American Public Works Association, building officials, realtors, colleges and universities. Also looking at having speakers that can talk to their successes in pursuing grants, resource sharing, best practices and the challenges of universal match/credits. Historically there was more interaction with the state from the county level to try to leverage what we need and get them to help us, perhaps more of a watchdog role in tracking monies. Private sector developers and what they are looking at, gas station and businesses with generators and seeing how this is tracked and how prepared they are. Marcia Steelman offered to follow up on the permit cycles for the gas station generators to see if they include any site visitation notations on seeing the generator or hookups. Discussion about FPL and their status with hardening their infrastructure. It was also suggested we talk more about re-entry to be able to assess damages.

7. Next we looked at the current composition of the Steering Committee to review if we have the right balance of people on board. It was suggested that maybe we want to include someone from the utilities side and first responders. Some of our current Steering Committee members will be retiring and we need to look for replacements. I will send out more information and am looking for volunteers.

Emergency Management	2	Chair Representing Recovery/ESF 18 Business and Industry
Municipal	2	Includes Floodplain Manager Public Works/Facilities
Education	4	Social Science Public Outreach/Research Grants Facilities
Health Care	1	Hospital/Planning & Gov. Relations.
Private Sector	3	Mitigation projects/measures
National Weather Service	1	
SFWMD	1	
Private Citizen	1	Represents Ag interests
Planner	1	Climate Change/Sea Level Rise
Social Service Agency	0	Currently vacant

8. Lastly we talked about what else we can do as a strategy and there was some additional discussion about FPL power lines. For the next meeting we will try to bring in folks from the utilities/private sector side who can speak to what they have been doing and where we are in terms of hardening and resiliency.

We closed the meeting, with reminding people to sign in and that our next meeting will be June 17th and asked for anyone that was interested in hosting. St. Thomas University has graciously offered and I will be working with Monique to make those arrangements and then I will let you all know. As always everyone was encouraged to send emails to me with any additional comments or follow up.

Disaster Assistance Reform Act

Committee Leaders Introduce Bill to Reform Disaster Assistance Programs & Reduce Disaster Costs
Staff Report on Superstorm Sandy Recovery Progress Also Released

For Immediate Release: March 19, 2015

Contact:

(Republicans) [Jim Billimoria](#), [Justin Harclerode \(202\) 225-9446](#)

(Democrats) [Jen Gilbreath \(202\) 225-4472](#)

Washington, DC - Committee leaders today introduced bipartisan legislation to address the rising costs of disasters in the United States, reduce the toll of future losses, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) disaster assistance capabilities and programs.

The FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act of 2015 (H.R. 1471) was introduced in the House by Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee Chairman Lou Barletta (R-PA). Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), T&I Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR), and Subcommittee Ranking Member André Carson (D-IN) are original cosponsors of the bill (click [here](#) for bill text).

H.R. 1471 provides FEMA direction and authorization for key programs that help reduce the loss of life and property and speed recovery for those impacted by disaster. The bill also requires an assessment of trends in disaster losses and recommendations that will result in the reduction of losses and increased cost savings.

“It’s been over 20 years since we’ve had a comprehensive look at disaster spending, and it’s time for a big picture policy review to determine why disaster spending is spiraling out of control and how we can better manage those costs for the taxpayer,” **Barletta** said. “I’m excited to help launch this discussion and find ways to bring costs down while ensuring we are prepared for the next big storm. This bill does exactly that and includes critical tools to make sure federal, state, and local governments are ready for any disaster.”

Summary of the FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act of 2015

The FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act of 2015 will:

- Commission an assessment of trends in disaster losses—their causes and amounts—and recommendations that will result in the reduction of losses and increased cost savings.
- Provide the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) additional direction and authorization for key programs that help reduce the loss of life and property and speed recovery for those impacted by disaster, including:
 - Authorizing FEMA through FY 2018, consistent with current funding levels;
 - Authorizing the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Response System through FY 2018, consistent with current funding levels, and clarifying liabilities and compensation issues related to participants in the system; and
 - Reauthorizing the Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMAC) Grants through FY 2018, consistent with current funding levels.

The legislation also includes policy changes that result in the more efficient and effective implementation of disaster assistance programs, as well as wise investments in mitigation:

- Raising the Public Assistance small projects threshold to \$1 million to reduce administrative costs, expedite assistance, and help communities recover more quickly;
- Establishing rates to reimburse states and local governments for the administrative costs incurred to implement disaster recovery projects, providing a fixed cap to avoid uncontrolled administrative costs;
- Reinstating a 3-year statute of limitations on FEMA’s ability to reclaim funds, based on a change in policy determination, after an applicant has spent the funds on previously determined eligible projects and when there is no evidence of fraud, waste or abuse; and
- Clarifying mitigation activities related to wildfires and earthquakes.

Click below for more information about the FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act of 2015:

<http://transportation.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398753>.

FL Governor’s Hurricane Conference - May 10-15, 2015

The 29th Annual Governor’s Hurricane Conference will be held in Orlando again this year. I have been invited to speak in a session with Rob Molleda and Betty Morrow on *Conveying Meteorological Uncertainty: How Social Science is Helping the NWS and Partners Communicate Hurricane Threats*. My portion of the presentation will be on the community survey we conducted in 2014. The full agenda of conference workshops and training sessions may be found at <http://flghc.org/>. Hope to see you there.