



**PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY  
STEERING COMMITTEE  
AGENDA**



**May 25, 2023  
9:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Palm Beach County EOC – Broadcast Studio**

**I. Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions – Ralph Wall, Chairperson**

- Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chairperson Ralph Wall.
- All attendees introduced themselves.

**II. Remarks – Mary Blakeney, Director**

- Mary updated the Steering committee of a pilot program collaboration between the NWS and Miami-Dade County that began on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The program reduced heat advisories and heat warnings by 3 degrees Fahrenheit. Heat vulnerability has resulted in 30 deaths in Miami-Dade County.
- Mary surveyed PBC departments for their current heat vulnerability policies and found that there are none.
- As the LMS is currently undergoing revisions, heat vulnerability threat and risk should be included. More focus on heat vulnerability deaths and socioeconomic challenges should command more focus moving forward.
- Ralph shared that the City of West Palm Beach is revamping its trolley system to assist underserved populations that may be affected by heat/economic factors and if this is something that can assist with the above.
- Ralph also suggested using this to gather information for the LMS update as a new hazard.
- The western communities have been looking at the extreme heat issue and applying for grants.
- Those arriving after the start of the meeting introduced themselves.

**III. PPL Discussion – Bethany King and Jerri L Clairday, PBC DEM**

- Handouts were provided. The first handout prioritized/new projects considered for scoring and those removed. The second handout showed the aggregate project list.
- It was suggested to Bethany to contact Juno Beach regarding their project as it has possibly been initiated.
- Carlos was interested in the timeline of other submitted or approved projects. He explained that the project approval time is lengthy sometimes resulting in elevated project costs. He added that this has the potential to delay timelines or require project cancellation.
- Ralph asked if the PPL project process should be re-evaluated.



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- Mary suggested that more intensive outreach can be applied to the next review cycle and suggested that pricing options be reviewed and updated.
- Ralph suggested voting as a committee to make adjustments to avoid/alleviate this issue.
- Bethany suggested making the off-cycle evaluations specific to pricing.
- Ralph also asked if the score and rank are the same or if re-evaluation is required.
- Ronnie interjected that the evaluation panel is constructed so that individuals do not self-score. It can be included in the LMS that additional scoring be considered. At this time, he advised to adhere to the current policy in the LMS.
- Mary suggested researching this as a whole before considering any changes. Ralph suggested re-evaluating/scoring on an as-needed basis.
- Ralph also suggested exploring ways to revise the process in order to be more responsive to trends currently being witnessed. His suggestion included an interim scoring process that includes Notifications of Funding Availability (NOFA) as an impetus. He further recommended a consideration of points reallocation.
- Ronnie had three (3) points/areas of concern regarding the above:
  - The Steering Committee has the ability to suggest and reopen scoring windows.
  - Municipalities should be held to the same standard.
  - At present, there is no clear verbiage or standard on the inclusion of the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) into mitigation planning.
- The suggestion was made to research FEMA documents for precedent of SVI incorporation.
- Ralph asked if a motion should be made to address this issue or if the Steering Committee could decide. Bethany reminded that this is a part of the revision. Ralph would like for this issue to be thoroughly researched.
- Ralph asked for a motion to adopt the new PPL. A motion to adopt was made and seconded. Motion passed unanimously to adopt the project list.

#### IV. Current HMGP Opportunities

- Hurricane Ian (DR-4673)
  - Notice of Funding Availability: NOFA DR-4673
- Hurricane Nicole (DR-4680)
  - Notice of Funding Availability: NOFA DR-4680
- Jerri reminded the Steering Committee that the deadline for DR-4673 is May 31<sup>st</sup> and the DR-4680 deadline is October 20<sup>th</sup>. Jerri asked if any projects have been submitted or plan to be submitted under these NOFAs. No one reported any projects nor intentions.

#### V. Questions/Comments – Ralph Wall, Chairperson

- Jerri commented that we will aggressively begin the LMS revision process. She added that she will be attending the LMS Planning Workshop being held virtually June 12<sup>th</sup> –



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16th. She asked the Committee if anyone had previously participated in a revision. Ralph suggested that the workshop notice be disseminated to LMS Steering Committee members to generate more participation. Jerri will follow-up and let the Committee know.

- Mary also advised that there is an internal meeting the first week of June. DEM will capture that information regarding changes and report back to the LMS Steering Committee.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

**VI. Next Meeting: August 23, 2023 at 9:00am**



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