

**BALDWIN COUNTY
HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING COMMITTEE – FULL BODY
MINUTES**

April 20, 2023

**BALDWIN COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
UPSTAIRS TRAINING ROOM
ROBERTSDALE, ALABAMA**

Hybrid Meeting with Physical and Telepresence Options

ATTENDANCE

Members present (Via WebEx): Nicole Woerner (City of Orange Beach), Karen Giordano (BCEMA), Josh Newman (City of Daphne), Janie Joiner (BCC Building Department), Jenny Kilpatrick (ADPH), Anna Buford (BCC Grants Department), Brian Underwood (BCC Grants Department), Logan Eberly (City of Foley)

Members present: Danon Smith (BCEMA Operations Officer / HMPC Member-at-Large), Vernon Dandridge (BCEMA Planning & Grants Mgr. – HMPC Secretary) Brandan Franklin (City of Gulf Shores – HMPC Chairperson)

Brandan Franklin brought the meeting to order at 9:10am.

OPENING COMMENTS

Vernon Dandridge gave opening remarks and welcomed all present both in person and virtually.
Danon Smith gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Brandan Franklin opened the meeting with Approval of Minutes from the previous HMPC Full Body Meeting dated January 19, 2023.

Motion: Danon Smith
Second: Jenny Kilpatrick
Ayes: 11
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Motion passed.

Vernon Dandridge gave an update on DR-4632 HMGP Applications.

Vernon stated that 5 applications had been submitted initially, but only 2 applications had been successfully submitted. Those applications were by the town of Magnolia Springs and City of Gulf Shores and are waiting for status updates from AEMA / FEMA.

Vernon Dandridge then gave an update on DR – 4563 HMGP Applications.

Vernon stated that great steps have been taken to submit and often resubmit RFI's that have been requested for the Baldwin County Unincorporated applications submitted by BCEMA. Those municipalities present expressed the same frustration with their application status and RFI's requested by FEMA.

There was much discussion among members concerning the frustrations of homeowners and municipalities alike with the grant process timeline for HMGP – 4563 (Hurricane Sally). Danon stated that she is a board member of AAEM (Alabama Association of Emergency Managers) and had recently been a part of a group that went to Washington, D.C., and had an opportunity to communicate frustrations and concerns to our legislature. Danon stated that the group had been able to communicate that the Baldwin County Area had sustained unprecedented damage due to Hurricane Sally and the importance of the potential Hazard Mitigation fund for the county. Furthermore, Danon suggested that everyone reach out to our state legislature via phone calls, emails, or letters to express concerns and frustration. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted and potentially signed by all Baldwin County Mayors explaining the situation in Baldwin County and ask for assistance in getting changes in FEMA's handling of these type Grants, the unrealistic time-lines incurred and the stress on our municipalities and residents. This letter will be sent to all Alabama legislative representatives. This letter is to be drafted and mailed prior to the next scheduled HMPC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Danon reported that the Hazard Mitigation Community Action Plan requires maintenance and revisions and asked if there were any to be made.

Danon again explained about the importance of HM Plan maintenance and that if revisions need to be done by respective cities and jurisdictions to their plans, and documentation needs to be added to the Plan of those revisions. She noted that if these necessary revisions weren't made and a Declared Emergency took place involving the revisions and they weren't in the plan, then FEMA Funding / System of Award Payment could be denied to that municipality or jurisdiction.

Danon also discussed the "Mitigation Minute – Discussion of Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Guidance."

Danon stated that she would be putting a video summary of changes on the website Hazard Mitigation page – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOYkm-gQxso>

Danon explained that these links are informative and include BRIC information and FMA changes as well as HMA guidance for 2023 programs moving forward into 2024.

Danon stated that she would be going into the website page and updating information to make it more user-friendly. Danon also stated that the "Mitigation Minute " plan would continue and begin to take place both during upcoming meetings as discussed in the January meeting, with the addition of possible guest speakers and on the website page as well, with the addition of informational videos.

Brandon Franklin asked for an update on the recently introduced HRAP (Home Recovery Alabama Program).

Danon explained what the program involves and the possibility of this helping residents still suffering from Hurricane Sally damage. Also mentioned was that any funding secured from this could be used for the applicant portion of a grant award.

Vernon stated that he had recently emailed everyone an update explaining the program and would do so again so that the information could be shared with the public.

Following is the information sent to HMPC Full Body Members:

The Home Recovery Alabama Program (HRAP) provides housing assistance to eligible single-family owner/occupant applicants (Owner-Applicants) and owners of single-family rental properties (Landlord-Applicants) affected by Hurricane Sally in September 2020 and/or Hurricane Zeta in October 2020 ("qualifying storms"). HRAP assists property owners by providing funding to repair, reconstruct, or replace single family homes that suffered damage from one or both of the qualifying storms. This program is designed to ensure that the housing needs of extremely-low, very-low, low- and moderate-income households, protected classes, and vulnerable populations are addressed to the greatest extent feasible.

HRAP is administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) and serves low- to moderate-income (LMI) households impacted by the qualifying storms in nine (9) HUD- and State-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) counties, which include: Mobile, Clarke, Baldwin, Escambia, Dallas, Marengo, Wilcox, Perry, and Washington counties.

Danon then gave information on ways to contact the program including the website – www.homerecoveryal.com and an intake center located in Foley at 200 E Laurel Ave.

Vernon then announced that a new NOFA for DR-4684 had been sent out from AEMA on April 19th with dates listed in May for application briefings.

Vernon explained that this new Grant opportunity was from the January 12th declaration for tornadoes mainly in Coosa and Washington counties. The Grant is highly competitive, state-wide and has a cap of 5.3 million with the LOI's due July 18th. The applicant briefings will take place on May 16, 17 and 18th. It was decided among members present that a timeline would need to be established following the briefings if a decision was made to pursue this grant and submit LOI's. A special meeting would be required, as this date is prior to the next scheduled HMPC Fully Body Meeting. All present agreed to

discuss the possibility of having this meeting following the application briefings and if the decision was made to pursue the Grant, then a move forward would take place.

Vernon asked if there were any further questions or comments from HMPC Full Body and there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no further questions from the Full Body, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 am.

The next regular Full Body Meeting date will be July 20, 2023, at 9:00am in the Ops Room of the BCEMA EOC.

Minutes for this meeting approved during the July 20, 2023, meeting of the Baldwin County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee.

Brandan Franklin, Chairperson - Baldwin County HMPC

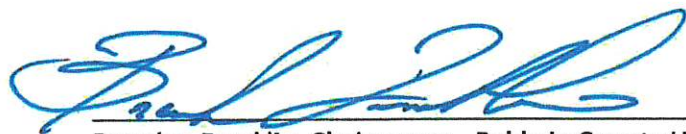
Date

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no further questions from the Full Body, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 am.

The next regular Full Body Meeting date will be July 20, 2023, at 9:00am in the Ops Room of the BCEMA EOC.

Minutes for this meeting approved during the July 20, 2023, meeting of the Baldwin County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee.



Brandan Franklin, Chairperson - Baldwin County HMPC



Date