

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

**January 19, 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), DJ Hart (BCC Planning and Zoning), Erik Cortinas (City of Fairhope), Marinda Turner, Sharon Sura (Daphne Utilities)

Members present: Danon Smith (BCEMA Operations Officer / HMPC Member-at-Large), Vernon Dandridge (BCEMA Planning & Grants Mgr. – HMPC Secretary), Michelle Pennington (BCEMA)

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Vernon Dandridge called the meeting to order at 09:00am. Brandan Franklin was absent.

**OPENING COMMENTS**

Vernon Dandridge gave opening remarks and welcomed all present both in person and virtually.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Vernon Dandridge opened the meeting with Approval of Minutes from the previous HMPC Full Body Meeting dated October 13, 2022.

Motion: Michelle Pennington

Second: Marinda Turner

Ayes: 10

No: 0

Abstain: 0

*Motion passed.*

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

Vernon stated that 5 applications had been submitted. Of the 5, the 2 submitted applications submitted by Baldwin County Unincorporated had been pulled due to not qualifying or having adequate information for application and had been closed.

Other applications by the town of Magnolia Springs and City of Gulf Shores have been submitted and are waiting for status updates from AEMA / FEMA.

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

Vernon stated that the 9 applications submitted by Baldwin County Unincorporated had received RFI's for various items including BCA's, updated Contractor Estimates and updated appraisals, as these items had increased significantly since the Grant applications have initially been submitted. Vernon reported that the requested information had been submitted. There was then discussion on whether BCA's were required by FEMA for Elevation Grants. It was agreed that this would be investigated further by asking AEMA to clarify differences of RFI requests, as some had been asked to provide these, and some had been advised that they weren't necessary. It was also suggested that the BCA's be done in a more streamlined manner. Nicole Woerner reported that homeowners who had applied in the City of Orange Beach are frustrated by the expense of the RFI's that are being requested and have pulled their applications due to this as well as the length of time that had been involved. Homeowner frustration with the process and length or time involved was agreed by all to be a huge factor at this point with this Grant. Vernon expressed that a hope for final decisions and funding approval of the submitted applications would happen soon.

Marinda Turner and Sharon Sura (Daphne Utilities) reported that their project applications have been moved by FEMA to a different Grant (ZETA) and had RFI's requested. They stated that they had submitted all RFI requests to date.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Vernon reported that the Hazard Mitigation Community Action Plan was passed this year but requires maintenance and revisions.**

Danon spoke about the importance of this and that if revisions needed to be done by respective cities and jurisdictions to their plans, documentation needed to be added to the Plan. She noted that if these necessary revisions weren't made and a Declared Emergency took place involving the revisions and it wasn't in the plan, then FEMA Funding / System of Award Payment could be denied. Danon gave examples of the types of revisions that may need to be made and asked if anyone had any updates that needed to be made. She pointed out that Baldwin County requires an update of the Flood Plain Management Plan. She also stressed that if the POC for each community plan changes, this need to be noted in the Plan.

**Danon also discussed that there is a need for more people to have Flood Plain Management Certification in the County.**

Danon mentioned that DJ Hart is the Baldwin County CRS Coordinator. Danon explained the process of certification and the result of having more people certified in the CRS program, such as a reduction of

flood insurance premiums under the NFIP due to points generated for the county for having more than one person certified in CRS and explained how the point system works in dictating these premiums. She also stated that Vernon Dandridge is going through the CFM program.

Danon also mentioned that she had been in discussion with Corey Garidos with ADECA in the Water Resources Division to see if there is interest in classes offered to those pursuing their CFM certification. A 5-day class (L -273) may potentially be offered here at the EOC if there is enough interest generated. The program involves 4 class days and a study night on the 4<sup>th</sup> day with the CFM exam on the 5<sup>th</sup> day. DJ Hart said that several in her office are interested in taking the class. Danon and Vernon will follow up and let the Full Body know when this course will take place and where.

**Vernon asked if there were any questions from the Full Body.**

Josh Newman asked if there were any upcoming HMGP Grants available.

Danon and Vernon answered that there are no upcoming HMGP Grants at this time as they are contingent upon Disaster Declarations, but there will be possibly Pre-Disaster Grants – FMA and BRIC – that may open in early Fall of next year. It was noted that these closed out in November of this year. Vernon mentioned that he would be sending out notification for PDM Grants and that FEMA GO is how these are communicated and encouraged everyone to check your FEMA GO accounts regularly for future information.

Erik Continas asked if updated POC's for the HM Community Action Plans need to be emailed to Danon and she responded that this information could be emailed to Vernon or herself and again stressed the importance of updated contacts in the Plan.

**Danon and Vernon then addressed the group if there was interest in a new item called “HMPC Mitigation Minute” at future meetings.**

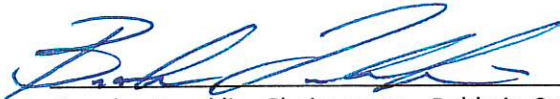
Danon explained that this would involve a short 15 minute invited speaker session on topics relating to mitigation such as a CRS overview, Flood Plain Management overview, the purpose of the HMPC Structure overview, etc. She asked the Full Body what topics that would help them information-wise would they be interested in hearing and if they felt this would be beneficial. All agreed that they would benefit from this and would collectively work on getting guest speakers. Danon mentioned that she would like to ask Corey Garidos with ADECA to speak at the next HMPC Full Body meeting on Flood Plain Management Certification.

**ADJOURNMENT**

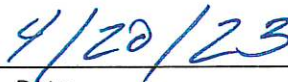
As there were no further questions from the Full Body, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

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

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



Brandan Franklin, Chairperson - Baldwin County HMPC



Date

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