

BALDWIN COUNTY
HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2021
BALDWIN COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
ROBERTSDALE, ALABAMA
WebEx Virtual Platform

ATTENDANCE

Members present (Via WebEx) were: Danon Smith (BCEMA), Lannie Smith (City of Orange Beach), Brandan Franklin (City of Gulf Shores), DJ Hart (BCC Planning & Zoning), Erik Cortinas (City of Fairhope), Chester Patterson (City of Spanish Fort), Eddie Harper (BCC Building Inspections), Eric Butler (City of Daphne), Rachel Keith (City of Foley), Ryan Frolik (East Central Baldwin Water Authority), Tonya Shannon (Haggarty), Jason Reisler (Haggarty), Zach Hood (BCEMA), Jenni Guerry (BCEMA), Michelle Pennington (BCEMA), Mike Purner (BCEMA), Scott Wallace (BCEMA), Amanda Thweatt (BCEMA), Leslie Johnston (SARPC)

Brandan Franklin called the meeting to order at 09:01am

OPENING COMMENTS

Brandan Franklin gave opening remarks.

OLD BUSINESS

Brandan Franklin advised that the minutes from the January meeting be approved.

Motion by Lannie Smith, seconded by Erik Cortinas.

Ayes: 19

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Passed

Danon Smith gave report on the progress of obtaining Community Action Plans from all communities. Nearly all have been turned in, but the two remaining are Elberta and

Magnolia Springs. Danon stated that she will reach out to both the Mayor of Magnolia Springs, Kim Koniar, and a representative from Elberta to help them complete their Action Plans so that they can be submitted next week to Leslie Johnston with SARPC.

Danon Smith reported that BRIC and FMA Grants have moved from the State to FEMA and are awaiting decisions. Tonya Shannon with Haggarty interjected that they are putting together a committee to begin reviewing the projects with FEMA.

Danon Smith reported that an email had been sent out to all Committee members for 3 sessions on HMGP Applicant Briefing to take place February 23, 24 and 25 via webcast through the AEMA. The purpose of these virtual sessions is to assist potential applicants in the Grant funding process with FEMA for HMGP (DR-4563). All committee members expressed that they would be attending one of the briefings. All agree that these would be very helpful during the process for individuals as well as government claims. Danon reported that BCEMA currently has approximately 16 applicants, mostly flood related claims, at this point. There was further discussion of previous online meetings that resulted in previous Grant awards.

Leslie Johnston reported that the Regional Plan Process is 95% complete and has some last-minute areas to fill and the Community Action Plans would be added at the end and reported that it is a little behind schedule but should be ready within the next few days and should be fine as a target date. Leslie suggested posting and asking for comments on the public release of Plan Draft from other Planning Commissions. Danon suggested to the committee to turn to the Hazard Mitigation Guide for guidance on how to present the Final Draft Presentation that would be appropriate during the Pandemic. Suggestions were made such as reaching out to individual committees by forms on the EMA's web page. Brandan Franklin suggested meeting next week to make a final decision on how to release the Final Regional Plan Draft publicly. All committee members agreed to meet virtually on Thursday, February 25th at 9:00 am to finalize these plans. Leslie Johnston agreed to attend this virtual meeting.

Danon Smith gave report on the updated EMA Mitigation Website with the latest Mitigation Interest Survey and Guidance/Introductory Information Document. Danon asked the committee for feedback and suggestions on the "Preparing to apply for Mitigation" link on the website. Committee members expressed that the improvements made to the website were very informational and helpful to individuals as well as government applicants.

NEW BUSINESS

Brandan Franklin expressed excitement about the HMGP Applicant Briefings next week and was appreciative of everyone on the Committee participating.

Lannie Smith asked if the project for Mitigation Grant would be prioritized at the March meeting and expressed that the meeting should be held in person with Social Distancing Guidelines. Brandan Franklin agreed with this suggestion, as well as other members of the committee. Danon offered the upstairs training room at the EMA as a place to hold the meeting. All agreed. Danon reminded the committee to go to the link in the EMA website to the Local Mitigation Handbook to assist with the meeting to take place next week to discuss the Plan Draft Presentation on February 25th.

It was agreed that the next HMPC meeting was set for March 18, 2021 in the Upstairs Training Room at the BCEMA.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 09:36am.

Minutes for this meeting approved during the March 18, 2021 meeting of the Baldwin County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee.

Chairperson: Brandan Franklin

Date