

# **WAKULLA COUNTY/CITY OF ST. MARKS COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM PROGRESS REPORT**

**September 25, 2009**

On October 29, 1999, the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners adopted the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) as the County's Community Rating System Floodplain Management Plan. Then on August 15, 2005, the Board of County Commissioners voted to adopt a revision of the LMS, created by the LMS Steering Committee (a volunteer workgroup) and a State contracted consultant. This revision included an updated project list that sought to better protect our floodplain. The consultant was not able to fulfill their responsibilities and so the State contracted with another group, Disasters, Strategies & Ideas Group, LLC, to finish the revisions on behalf of the County. The new consultants and the Steering Committee completed the remaining work and submitted the completed LMS to the State Department of Community Affairs on June 30, 2006.

Since that time, the Committee has reprioritized the "Action Plan" or project list, to better reflect the needs in the County. The revised Action Plan has narrowed the focus to sixteen action projects and eleven implementation projects. The action items are tangible in nature and mostly involve construction projects, while the implementation items seek changes in regulation and the creation of workgroups.

Continual progress is being made on the important action items in the Action Plan that began in years past. The County has worked with and supported the Northwest Florida Water Management District (The District) over the last several years to obtain LIDAR mapping of the County, which will provide a basis for a county-wide stormwater study, the number one ranked action project. At this time, the District is working to finalize the data for public dissemination. The County is waiting on this information from the District before additional work is completed towards this study. On that same issue, staff is currently considering the creation of a new stormwater ordinance to address runoff and retention issues. Another project being brought forward from last year and is currently being worked on is the County-wide sewer expansion and upgrade project. The County is still working toward expanding central sewer into the historic subdivisions. Lastly, the Public Works Department has conversed with the Florida Department of Transportation regarding repairs to Syprett Creek Bridge. As this bridge is located on an emergency evacuation route, maintaining it is a key responsibility and the needed repairs are scheduled to begin in 2010.

A new endeavor within the past year has been towards our third ranked action project, which includes an effort to acquire flood prone properties within the Wakulla Gardens subdivision, which is a historically platted subdivision. In a movement toward this, the County enclosed information cards within TRIM notices going to property owners within that development. These information cards requested citizens to respond if they would be interested in selling, trading or donating their lots to the County. While the exact use of

each lot obtained through this still developing program is undetermined, each lot's location and elevation will be considered in evaluating whether it can be utilized for stormwater runoff or other flood protection measures.

The remaining projects in the Action Plan will receive attention as financing and staff time become available.

This Progress Report was prepared by Melissa Corbett of the Planning and Community Development Department. It will be made available to our governing board through memorandum and through news release to our local press, "The Wakulla News", for publication. Its availability to the public will be posted on the Board of County Commissioners Public Notice board and county website, [www.mywakulla.com](http://www.mywakulla.com). Copies of this Report may be obtained from the Planning and Zoning Office, which is located at 3093 Crawfordville Highway.

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