

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

September 23, 2011

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. It has subsequently been updated as required over the years by the LMS Steering Committee (a volunteer workgroup). The current LMS was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on May 2, 2011.

Within the LMS is a list of twenty-five future projects that will be utilized to assist the County in reducing its risk and vulnerability to known hazards. These projects were ranked in accordance as to whether they had a high, medium or low priority. Eight of the projects were ranked as high priority. The top two projects are completion of a Countywide stormwater study and acquisition of land for stormwater use. The next three highest ranking projects are for stormwater mitigation in Magnolia Gardens and Greiner's Addition subdivision, in Wakulla Gardens subdivision, and in the City of Sopchoppy. Two other high priority projects in the City of St. Marks are also included in the plan. The first of these is for stormwater mitigation to acquire land and construct detention ponds and the second is for land acquisition for the St. Marks Waterfronts Partnership Riverfront including demolition of flood damaged structures so the space can be utilized for passive recreation and open space. A stormwater study for the Wakulla Gardens subdivision has been completed and construction plans for six of the flood basins in that subdivision are also complete. Funding is currently being sought for all of the other aforementioned projects. The last high priority ranked project is the replacement of Syfrett Creek Bridge on Highway 375. Federal funds utilized through the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency will be used in Fiscal Year 2011-2012 to replace this bridge.

There are fourteen projects ranked with a medium priority. The creation of a watershed management work group has been included as an important project. County staff has participated in the Wakulla Springs Basin Working Group over the last several years before State funding to the Group ended. The Group worked toward understanding water quantity and quality issues in the Wakulla Springs spring shed and supported efforts to improve and protect these resources. Since the loss of funding, the work of the Wakulla Springs Basin Working Group has been picked up by the Hydrogeology Consortium and staff will continue to participate in these efforts. Additionally, work on several medium priority projects is continually ongoing by staff. Public outreach on natural hazards, wildfire mitigation and mitigation for repetitive loss properties are three projects that are ongoing through publications, advertisements and mailings.

The next set of projects ranked at medium priority cover a wide range of topics. The first project is to implement a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This process has already begun for the Smith Creek area. The creation of mobile home anchoring standards beyond code minimum requirements and the upgrade of road construction standards in flood prone areas are other projects in this category that will be addressed as staff time permits. The acquisition of severe

repetitive loss properties for the purpose of creating open space is an important project as well. As severe repetitive loss property owners become interested and funding is available these projects will be pursued. Lastly, the improvement of wind resistance for existing mobile homes through the installation of roof strapping has been identified as a beneficial project. This activity is also waiting on funding.

The last set of medium priority projects involves flood and stormwater related activities. When the revised FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Wakulla County are released, staff will assist in an outreach campaign project to educate the public on the proposed map changes. The maps are anticipated to be released in the Fall of 2011. Another proposed project is the flood proofing of utility manholes and sewer lift stations in the County to prevent stormwater intrusion. Funding is being sought for the hardening of this sewer infrastructure. In conjunction with this project, another one seeks to upgrade and expand the entire Countywide sewer system to better protect it from flood induced impacts. This project has progressed through the County acquiring lots in the Wakulla Gardens subdivision for future sewer expansions and upgrades. Another stormwater related project is proposed to take place in the City of Sopchoppy. This will involve corrective work to stop road subsidence due to the erosion of a stormwater ditch on Park Avenue. A study for the project has already been completed using a SWIM grant. The last activity in this category is the expansion of the stormwater retention pond at the Medart Recreational Park to reduce flooding onto adjacent properties. Work will proceed on this item as funding becomes available.

Three projects were identified by the LMS Working Group with a lower priority. These include a retrofit of existing windows and the installation of storm shutters on the County Courthouse, County Tax Collector's building and the County Administration building. This project will harden these structures and protect vital County records from storm damage. These activities will be pursued as staff time and funding become available.

This Progress Report was prepared by Melissa Corbett of the Planning and Community Development Department. It will be made available to the governing board through memorandum and through news release to the 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. Copies of this Report may be obtained from the Planning and Zoning Office, which is located at 3095 Crawfordville Highway.

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