

MEMORANDUM

10/9/2012

To: Distribution
From: Seminole County Community Rating System Coordinator
Subject: Floodplain Management Plan 2012 Progress Report

Background

Due to Tropical Storm Faye in 2008, Seminole County was inundated with severe flooding. In turn, the amount of Repetitive Loss properties grew substantially to from 4 to 15, 12 of which are insured under the NFIP. To maintain our Class 7 rating in the Community Rating System (CRS), the County was required to prepare and maintain a Floodplain Management Plan in accordance with CRS Activity 510.

Seminole County assembled the Floodplain Management Planning Committee (FMPC) to develop the Floodplain Management Plan. The representatives included interested municipalities, federal and state agencies, citizens, representatives of Seminole County Departments and other stakeholders. After many meetings and working with AMEC Consulting, the final Floodplain Management Plan was adopted by the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners as an appendix to the Seminole County to the Local Mitigation Strategy through Resolution 2011-R-93 on May 10th, 2011.

After the Floodplain Management Plan was adopted, the FMPC was converted to a permanent advisory body and integrated into the Seminole County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group. The LMS Working Group meets quarterly to review and promote mitigation proposals, opportunities and projects.

How Report was Prepared

On June 11, 2012, the LMS Working group performed an evaluation of all Floodplain Management Plan Action Items. All representatives (Building Division, Planning & Development, Emergency Management, Stormwater, and Roads/Public Works) provided feedback into the action items and the status of their projects. A description of the current status was listed on a Floodplain Management Plan Goals and Action Items Matrix. Using that information, this report was prepared by Stacy Casertano, CFM, Floodplain Administrator for Seminole County and Tony Coleman, CFM, CRS Coordinator for Seminole County.

Distribution

Copies of this report (as well as the Floodplain Management Plan) are available for viewing at the Seminole County Building Division located at 1101 E. 1st. Street, Sanford FL and all Seminole County Library branches. In addition, it may be viewed online at www.seminolecountyfl.gov/gm/pdf/FMP-Update2012.pdf. This report will also be released to the public through the Sanford Herald and the Orlando Sentinel newspapers.

Action Items

Action Item 1. Subdivision Ordinance Improvements

The County staff should explore development of example subdivision ordinance language that requires new infrastructure to have hazard mitigation provisions, such as:

- a. Buried utility lines and
- b. Storm shelters in new mobile home parks.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Planning and Engineering Departments

Deadline: December 1, 2012/ Ongoing

Cost: Staff Time

Benefits: This will improve the hazard protection standards for new construction and will ensure less damage to utility lines and help protect vulnerable structures.

This is an ongoing action. The responsible agency was revised to the Seminole County Planning & Development Division. As of this time no new manufactured housing developments have been proposed and we do not anticipate any in the near future. The subdivision development ordinance is continually being evaluated for potential improvements and/or higher standards. Current discussions are underway with applicable County departments to seek cooperation and agreements with private utility providers for the mandating of underground utilities.

Development activities within the flood prone areas shall be limited in scope. A study shall be provided for any change in the flood prone elevations. This study must be approved by the County Engineer, the Development Review Manager, the Board of County Commissioners and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Action Item 2. Preserve Open Space

The County should use every opportunity to encourage preservation of floodplain areas as open space or other uses compatible with the flooding hazard to preserve floodplain storage capacity and reduce the potential for damage to structures.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Planning and Development Department

Deadline: January 2016

Cost: Staff Time

Benefits: Preservation of floodplain areas as open space will help to maintain floodplain storage capacity and help to reduce potential flood damage to structures. This also meets a goal in the Seminole County Comprehensive Plan.

This is an ongoing process and all applicable county divisions regularly review and recommend ways and means to improve and implement County land development regulations.

Action Item 3. Evaluate Increasing Higher Standards

The County should continue to enforce its existing regulations for development and mobile homes and consider the cost and benefits of other higher standards to further protect the residents of Seminole County, such as a higher freeboard requirements.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Building Department

Deadline: December 1, 2013

Cost: Staff Time

Benefits: Higher flood protection measures can reduce damage to structures and have the potential to reduce the cost of flood insurance premiums.

The Seminole County flood plain ordinance is currently going through a re-write to align with the 2010 Florida Building Code flood provisions with proposals for including new higher standards such as prohibiting enclosures below the base flood elevation and raising freeboard to 1 ½'.

Action Item 4. Develop Property Evaluation Checklist

A standard checklist should be developed to evaluate a property's exposure to damage from floods. It should include a review of insurance coverage and identify where more information can be found on appropriate property protection measures. The checklist should be provided to each agency participating in this planning process and made available to the public. This checklist should also be applied to Seminole County's own properties. A priority should be placed on those critical facilities in the floodplain and whether public properties are adequately insured.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Emergency Management and Building Departments

Deadline: December 1, 2012

Cost: Staff Time

Benefits: Identifies buildings' vulnerability to flood damage and reviews the flood insurance coverage. It should help identify what property protection measures should be used to protect the building.

This is currently being developed by the Building and Emergency Management Divisions and is expected to be completed on or about the target date.

Action Item 5. Evaluation of Cost Sharing Programs

Seminole County should evaluate establishment of cost sharing programs, such as rebates, to encourage low cost (under \$10,000) property protection measures on private property. For example:

- Surface and subsurface drainage improvements,
- Berms and regrading for shallow surface flooding, and
- Relocating heating and air conditioning units above the base flood elevation.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Emergency Management and Building Departments

Deadline: January 1, 2014

Cost: Staff Time

Benefits: A revolving loan or rebate program would allow property owners to fund low cost mitigation to protect their structure from flood damage. This has the potential to reduce repetitive loss flooding.

This is an ongoing task that is that is always taken into consideration during floodplain management meetings, however it is one that is difficult to develop and implement during difficult economic periods.

Action Item 6. Seek Funding for Repetitive Loss Properties and Critical Facilities

The County should seek state and federal funding support for higher cost measures, such as elevation, relocation and acquisition of high priority properties. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, Repetitive Flood Claims and Severe Repetitive Loss Grant Programs should be investigated for all eligible properties. High priority properties are:

- Those properties in repetitive loss areas.
- Critical facilities in the floodway or subject to flood depths of more than two feet.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Emergency Management and Building Departments

Deadline: January 1, 2016

Cost: Staff Time

Benefits: Elevation, relocation and acquisition of repetitive loss properties is effective mitigation.

At the time of consideration for each structure, FEMA Benefit-Cost Software must be used to determine if the project meets eligibility requirements. If so, reducing repetitive damage to a structure will have a positive impact on the Flood Insurance Fund.

We have currently secured 3 repetitive loss flood mitigation grants. (Lunsford, Fleihs and Campbell properties) The Lunsford project is nearing 100% completion and the other 2 are in progress. Other repetitive loss properties are currently under review for funding and implementation. This is an ongoing project that is on target but will always be in process.

Action Item 7. Enforcement of Surface Water Management Ordinance

Seminole County should continue to enforce the wetland protection, erosion and sediment control and BMP provisions of the Surface Water Management Ordinance. With three large lakes and almost 90 square miles of floodplain, to remain "Florida's Natural Choice," rigorous enforcement of the Surface Water Management Ordinance is necessary.

Responsible Agency: Planning and Engineering Departments

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Staff Time and Operating Budget

Benefits: Preserving the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain provides multiple

positive benefits for Seminole County, including recharging the aquifer, maintaining species of flora and fauna, and providing for recreational activities for both residents and visitors to Seminole County.

This is an ongoing action that is always under consideration and review for improvements and implementation of higher standards. All building permit applications submitted for properties located in a Wetland or Floodplain are reviewed carefully for compliance.

Action Item 8. Review and Update Emergency Operations Plan

The *Seminole County Emergency Operations Plan* should be reviewed in detail on an annual basis to determine where updates and improvements can be made and how to maximize credit under CRS. The *Plan* should then be submitted periodically for credit under CRS, and CRS will provide a critique of the plan to show what further improvements are needed.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Emergency Management Department

Deadline: December 31, 2011

Cost: Staff Time and Operating Budget

Benefit: An outdated Emergency Operations Plan will put both people's health and lives at risk. Making sure that phone numbers, communication, etc. are updated and new facilities and populations are added is crucial to response and recovery in Seminole County.

Action was completed as of September 2011 by the Seminole County Office of Emergency Management.

Action Item 9. Installation of Stream and River Gauges

The County should consider all possible local, state and federal funding options for installation of additional stream and river gauges to provide a higher level of protection to its residents. The investigation of additional gauging stations should be done in cooperation with the National Weather Service, St. Johns River Water Management District, the United States Geological Survey and FEMA.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Emergency Management Department

Deadline: January 1, 2016

Cost: Estimated at \$35,000 for one gauging station with annual operating costs of approximately \$18,000.

Benefit: Additional gauging stations will allow for more accurate forecasting of floods and help to provide better warning information to the residents of Seminole County.

Project dead line is January of 2016 and is currently on target. A forecast point has been added for the Wekiva River at State Road 46.

Action Item 10. Evaluate Evacuation Routes

The County should ensure that all steps are being taken to alleviate traffic jams during an evacuation of the County. Hurricane warnings versus toxic fumes may require different routes to be used for evacuation. Based on current and future population projections, the County should ensure that there is adequate roadway to carry residents to safety.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Emergency Management Department

Deadline: January 1, 2014

Cost: Staff Time and Operating Budget

Benefit: Proper safe evacuation is a benefit to the security of the residents of Seminole County.

Action has been completed as of June 2012 by the Seminole County Office of Emergency Management. Evacuation routes and inland evacuation are complete.

Action Item 11. Post-Disaster Procedures and Policies

The County's emergency preparedness, public information, and permits staffs should work together to formalize the post-disaster procedures for public information, reconstruction regulation and mitigation project identification which are outlined in Chapter 8. Those ideas should be expanded, further developed and expanded on and adopted as a clear set of policies and procedures.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Emergency Management and Building Departments

Deadline: January 1, 2014

Cost: Estimated \$10,000 to \$12,000

Benefit: Established formal post-disaster policies and procedures ensure that public information going out to the public is accurate and originates from a single source, that reconstruction regulation occurs systematically with safety in mind, and that a clear set of mitigation projects are defined after damage assessment records have been finalized.

This is an ongoing project with a deadline of January 2014. It is continuously under review for improvements and ways to implement any proposed improvements.

Action Item 12. Continued On-Site Detention and Retention and Evaluation of County Maintenance of Facilities

The County should continue to require developers to provide on-site detention and retention to lessen the volume and rate of runoff from developed sites. The County should evaluate the inspection and maintenance of these facilities to ensure that the designed storage is maintained and outfalls and piping remain in good condition.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Engineering and Public Works Departments

Deadline: Ongoing/January 1, 2014

Cost: Staff Time

Benefit: Reduction in the volume and rate of post-development runoff and immediate increases to flow in stream and channels, reducing the potential for building damage and saving lives from faster flowing currents in those systems.

This is an ongoing project with all applicable review, maintenance and inspections of construction performed by the Seminole County Public Works Division. The Seminole County Engineering Division was removed from the responsible agencies.

Action Item 13. Regional Detention

The County should consider the benefits of upper watershed regional detention as a way to reduce downstream flow. This approach could be combined with the preservation of open space of sensitive lands.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Engineering and Public Works Departments

Deadline: Ongoing/January 1, 2016

Cost: Staff Time

Benefit: Regional detention is a benefit to piecemeal construction of individual on-site detention and retention facilities. By looking at the entire watershed, a holistic approach to watershed management is achieved. An additional benefit could be combining this effort with the preservation of floodprone land.

Ongoing action. The responsible agency was updated to reflect just the Seminole County Public Works Department. Fortunately most of the upper water shed areas are either already developed or are located in dedicated rural boundaries thus seriously reducing and/or restricting any future mass development within these areas. Any re-development of areas within the urban boundaries that were originally developed 25 or more years ago will be held to the current subdivision ordinance which is more stringent and restrictive than the original development thus improving the flood and surface water management of these areas.

Action Item 14. Mullet Lake Park Road Stormwater Project

The County should encourage one approach of the Mullet Lake Park Road Stormwater Improvement Project for implementation to reduce flooding and avoid future repetitive loss properties. This project is already recognized on the Seminole County Capital Improvement Plan.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Engineering and Public Works Departments

Deadline: Ongoing/January 1, 2016

Cost: Estimated \$400,000 to \$900,000

Benefit: Completion of this capital improvement project will benefit many properties in the eastern section of Seminole County through reduced flow and flood conditions. By implementing this project, the County can reduce repetitive flooding and protect residents from future flooding.

This is an ongoing project with a deadline of January 2016 and is currently on target. The responsible agency was updated to reflect just the Seminole County Public Works Department. A joint project between Seminole County Public Works and the FDOT is currently in development with preliminary engineering in the design phase.

Action Item 15 Outreach Projects for Natural Areas

The public and decision makers should be informed about the hazard mitigation benefits of restoring rivers, wetlands and other natural areas. Restoration and protection techniques should be explained. This should include publicizing illicit discharge rules to a wider audience and the need to protect lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands from illegal dumping and inappropriate development. This campaign can be conducted through direct mail, website development, and/or neighborhood meetings.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Planning, Building and Public Works Departments

Deadline: Ongoing/January 1, 2016

Cost: Staff Time and Operating Budget

Benefit: Increasing the public's awareness of the benefits of the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain will help to reduce actions by the public which degrade the wetlands and water systems in the County.

This is an ongoing action that is on target and continually under review and consideration for additional outreach items to be added to those that are already in place.

Action Item 16 Outreach Projects for Property Protection

Public education materials should be developed to explain property protection measures that can help owners reduce their exposure to damage by floods and the various types of insurance that are available. Because properties in floodplains will be damaged at some point, a special effort should be made to provide information and advice to floodplain property owners. Special attention should be given to repetitive loss and high hazard areas. All property protection projects should be voluntary. Other than state and federally mandated regulations, local incentives should be positive as much as possible, such as providing financial assistance. This can be accomplished through the following techniques:

The County's website should be improved to make navigation to flood hazard and safety information more intuitive. The County should increase its presence on social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, to maximize the number of people reached with flood hazard and safety information. The County should continue to distribute brochures about hurricanes to those living in the mapped floodplain. The County should continue to hold the Hurricane Expo and give away preparedness kits at the event. Staff should reach out to homeowners' associations and faith-based organizations to help spread the word about flood hazards and protection and safety measures. The County's website should have a dedicated mitigation page.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Emergency Management and Building Departments

Deadline: Ongoing/January 1, 2016

Cost: Staff Time and Operating Budget

Benefit: A more educated population will enable residents to help protect themselves from flood

Seminole County Division of Emergency Management has completed the Disaster Expo, performed a whole community exercise and continually updates the Prepare Seminole Website. This project is ongoing and on target.

Action Item 17 Public Information Outreach Strategy

The County should consider implementation of a public information outreach program strategy for credit under the CRS and to prepare a program that seriously thinks about and considers the County's current outreach program in terms of what is currently working and what is not working. A committee would be established to undertake this process and set in motion a realistic and implementable public information program. This is extremely important since the County is currently without a dedicated Public Information Officer and the CRS will be adding more credit to this activity and reducing credit in other outreach measures.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Emergency Management and Building Departments

Deadline: January 1, 2014

Cost: Estimated \$10,000 to \$15,000

Benefit: A public information outreach strategy will set forth a well organized and proactive outreach program that provides the residents and businesses in Seminole County with the information they need to protect themselves and will help to reduce the overall damage in future flood disasters.

This is an ongoing action that is on target and continually under review and consideration for additional outreach items to be added to those that are already in place. Presently completed but updates will always be forthcoming.

Action Item 18 Plan Adoption

The Seminole County Board of Commissioners should adopt this Floodplain Management Plan as an appendix to the Local Mitigation Strategy through a formal resolution.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Emergency Manager and Board of County Commissioners

Deadline: February 15, 2010

Cost: Staff Time

Benefit: A public which is better protected from flood damage and reduced cost of repairs after flood events.

This has been completed by Seminole County Board of County Commissioners resolution 2011-R-93.

Action Item 19 Floodplain Management Planning Committee – LMS Working Group

With the adoption of this Plan as an appendix to the Seminole County Local Mitigation Strategy, the Floodplain Management Planning Committee will be converted to the permanent LMS Working Group to ensure the mitigation measures are implemented.

Responsible Agency: Seminole County Department of Public Safety – County Emergency Manager

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Staff Time

Benefit: A single plan which carries out the objectives of protecting residents and businesses within Seminole County from all natural disasters.

This has been completed. After the Floodplain Management Plan was adopted, the FMPC was converted to a permanent advisory body and integrated into the Seminole County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group. The LMS Working Group meets quarterly to review and promote mitigation proposals, opportunities and projects.