



Indian River County Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan

Planning Meeting Summary

April 25, 2012, 9 am – 12:00 pm
Division of Emergency Management,
Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
4225 43rd Ave, Vero Beach, FL



I. General Meeting

Tina Jou of Calvin, Giordano and Associates, Inc. provided a brief 10 minute overview of the PDRP planning process and purpose of the meeting, the accomplishments of the stakeholders, and future deadlines. At approximately 9:10 am, Helene Wetherington provided an overview of the overlapping issues discussed by the workgroups in previous meetings. These issues included mobile home parks, post-disaster permitting processes, and the need to engage Community Redevelopment Agencies. She provided an explanation of the goals and objectives and instructions for the workgroup activities as detailed in each of the workgroup packets. Each group was instructed to assign a workgroup member to be a master note taker and a workgroup representative to provide an overview of their group's discussion.

II. Workgroup Breakout Discussion

Following the introduction of the general meeting, attendees were given the opportunity to break out into their respective workgroups in various sections of the room. The workgroups were provided packets of information with discussion materials to help guide their work group activities. The workgroup breakout discussion questions focused on refining issues specific to the community. Due to the absence of some stakeholders, there was limited representation in a few workgroups. Those workgroups were combined with others to form the following workgroups:

- Infrastructure
- Health and Social Services
- Community Development, Economic Redevelopment, and Environment

III. Reconvene for group discussion and adjourn

All work groups reconvened at 11:45 pm and the selected spokesperson from each group provided a report of the top findings of the group discussion during the breakout session. Master notes were collected by the planning team following the session and a summary of the breakout reports are summarized in Attachment A.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Attachment A: Workgroup Discussion Summary

Infrastructure

The Infrastructure Workgroup highlighted issues opportunities to place utilities and fiber optic cables underground, following a disaster. They also addressed the need to expand facilities and reverse osmosis. The workgroup also discussed some of the challenges associated with the relocation of vulnerable infrastructure in the County. Some of those facilities are city owned and may not have many suitable alternate locations to relocate. However, should the opportunity present itself in the post-disaster environment, relocation of those facilities would be ideal (such as the wastewater facility located on the river in the City of Vero Beach). Finally, the group discussed opportunities to create policies that include triggers to extend storm and sewer water systems to areas that do not currently have. For example, if fifty percent of the septic systems were destroyed then the County or City would extend those services into the area.

Health and Social Services

The Health and Social Services Workgroup identified the need to expand the ability of social services agencies to communicate and coordinate their support efforts to vulnerable populations in the aftermath of a large-scale disaster. A representative from the workgroup acknowledged that although the school district has plans for during and immediately after a disaster, it did not have long-term redevelopment strategies or plans in place. It is unknown how and where the school district would rebuild schools in the post-disaster environment. The workgroup discussed the financial impact of augmenting personnel, resources, communication networks and information exchange capabilities. Public outreach and mitigation is largely needed for the non-English speaking population through translator services and other strategies. Further, the workgroup discussed the need to provide outreach and education efforts to the elderly population located in mobile homes.

Community Redevelopment, Economic Redevelopment, and Environmental and Hazardous Materials Contamination

The Combined Workgroup consisted of stakeholders from community and economic development organizations. They highlighted the issues of expedited permitting and the need to augment staffing post-disaster, out-of-state contractor qualifications, and low-income blighted areas. Overall, the workgroup favored expedited and streamlined permitting processes for businesses and emergency infrastructure needs (such as water, sewer, and elevating structures). However, the group would like to further identify procedures and processes the county can implement in order to be proactive and successfully recover post-disaster.