

## **Lee County Floodplain Management Plan Status Report – October 2015**

### **Purpose**

The Lee County Board of County Commissioners adopted the Joint Unified Local Mitigation Strategy for Lee County, Florida in February 2007, and updated it in December 2011. The Local Mitigation Strategy will be updated, reviewed by the Florida Department of Emergency Management and adopted again in 2016.

The strategy also serves as the County's floodplain management plan. This report documents progress made on the goals and objectives contained in the strategy. It was prepared by the County's CRS Coordinator. Copies of the report are available for review at the Division of Public Safety's Administrative Office located at 14752 Ben C. Pratt/Six Mile Cypress Parkway in Fort Myers, Florida. A notice of its availability is located on the Division of Public Safety's website.

### **Background**

The strategy was prepared to promote mitigation from hazards posing a threat to the communities within Lee County. It was also restructured to serve as the County's flood plain management plan that assessed the flooding problem of the unincorporated areas of Lee County, inventoried the flood hazard areas, reviews possible activities to remedy identified flooding problems, selected appropriate alternatives, and formulated an implementation schedule.

### **Review of Approved Action Plan**

The attached report lists by goal, the project description, its cost and funding source, participating agency(s), hazard addressed (see key below), community benefited by project and its status.

### **Projects not completed or are behind schedule and why**

Projects are on schedule.

### LMS Approved Action Plan

Project Description	Cost/Fund Source	Participating Agency	Hazard Addressed	Beneficiary	Status
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#### Programs & Projects Supporting Preventive Mitigation Activities

Continue programs supporting Comprehensive Plan initiatives, Land Development Code regulations	<p><b>\$2.8 million/</b> Unincorporated MSTU</p> <p><b>\$1million/</b> Cape Coral*</p>	<p>Lee County, Dept. Of Community Development, Planning Division, Development Services Division</p> <p>Cape Coral Dept. Of Community Development, Planning &amp; Growth Management Division</p>	TC, TH, FL, CE, WF, TR	<p>Unincorporated Lee County</p> <p>Cape Coral</p>	<p>On-going; Lee’s significant Comp Plan update revises the Conservation and Coastal Management Element and creates a new Community Safety and Well Being element to address natural disasters among other safety issues</p> <p>On-going</p>
Purchase land parcels to promote open space preservation in hazard prone areas	<p><b>\$65 million/</b> Conservation 2020 Fund</p>	Lee County Lands/Parks & Recreation, South Florida Water Management District	FL, CE, TC	All communities in Lee County	On-going
Continue enforcement of current floodplain and other land development regulations	<p><b>\$9.1 million/</b> Unincorporated MSTU</p> <p><b>\$6.1 million/</b> Cape Coral</p>	<p>Lee County, Dept. Of Community Development, Development Services</p> <p>Cape Coral Dept. Of Community Development, Building Division, Code Compliance Division</p>	FL, TC	<p>Unincorporated Lee County</p> <p>Cape Coral</p>	On-going
Continue current surface water management program	<p><b>\$340,000</b> for FY16; <b>\$250,000</b> annual budget; <b>\$1.4 million</b> invested since LMS was adopted / Unincorporated M STU</p>	Lee County Surface Water, Natural Resources Division Cape	FL, TC	Unincorporated Lee County, Bonita Springs, Cape Coral	On-going

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	\$332,184 / Cape Coral	Coral Public Works Dept.			
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Continue current drainage system maintenance program of county canals & roadside ditches.	\$4.2 million / Lee County Department of Transportation	Lee County Dept. Of Transportation, Canal & Roadway/Pipe/Ditch Maintenance Programs	FL, TC	Unincorporated Lee County, Bonita Springs	On-going
Implement Long Range Beach Erosion Control Budget Plan	Captiva and Northern Sanibel /Lee County Beach Management; local assessments by CEPD, bed tax, state grant / \$20 million construction.	Federal, FDEP, Lee County, Other Local	CE, TC	Unincorporated Lee County, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers Beach, Bonita Springs	Constructed Dec 2013
	Captiva and Northern Sanibel /Lee County Beach Management; local assessments by CEPD, bed tax, state grant / \$500,000.				Ongoing monitoring and management
	Estero Island/ Lee County Beach Management, FDEP / \$4 million.				Constructed Dec 2011
	Estero Island/ Lee County Beach Management, FDEP / \$70,000.				Ongoing monitoring and management

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	Lovers Key / Lee County Beach Management / \$3.2 million construction.				Construction completed Dec 2014
	Lovers Key / Lee County Beach Management / \$700,000.				Ongoing monitoring and management
	Bonita Beach / Lee County Beach Management, bed tax, FDEP / \$1.8 million.				Construction completed Sept 2014; Monitoring ongoing
	Bonita Beach / Lee County Beach Management, bed tax, FDEP / \$232,000.				Ongoing monitoring and management
	Blind Pass/ Lee County Beach Management, FDEP / \$615,000				Constructed Apr 2013
	Blind Pass/ Lee County Beach Management, FDEP / \$393,000.				Monitoring ongoing; Inlet Management Plan Study underway
	\$9.8 million -- Gasparilla Island / US Army Corps**, Lee County Beach Management, FDEP				Constructed Dec 2013; Monitoring Ongoing

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City of Fort Myers Dean Park Neighborhood Engineering & Drainage Improvements	\$2.8 million / Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	FEMA, City of Fort Myers Public Works	FL, TC	City of Fort Myers	Completed in 2012
Manuals Branch Watershed Improvement Drainage Projects	\$1.9 million / Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	FEMA, City of Fort Myers Public Works	FL, TC	City of Fort Myers	Construction project was re-advertised.
Continue to implement water restriction ordinances	Program staff time/General Fund	Lee County, Cities, South Florida Water Management District	DR	Unincorporated Lee County, all cities	On-going
Enact burn bans when drought conditions warrant it	Program staff time/All Hazards MSTU	Lee County Public Safety, Florida Division of Forestry, Lee County Fire Chiefs Association	WF	Unincorporated Lee County, all cities	On-going

### Programs and Projects Supporting Property Protection Activities

Purchase appropriate repetitive loss properties	\$132,442 / Flood Mitigation Assistance Program & EMPA Trust Fund  \$575,672 / Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	FEMA, Lee County Dept. Of Public Works, Division of County Lands, Division of Public Safety	FL,TC	Unincorporated Lee County, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers	Purchased four properties; nine properties demolished by owners, including one in Fort Myers in 2012
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Freeboard requirement for new construction located in the X Zone of floodplain	Program staff time/General Fund, Unincorporated MSTU	Lee County, Community Development Dept, County Attorney's Office	FL, TC	Unincorporated Lee County	Adopted by County, August 2000
Retrofit eligible repetitive loss properties	\$273,827 / Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Residential Construction Mitigation Program	FEMA, Florida Dept. Of Community Affairs, Lee County, Division of Public Safety	FL, TC	Unincorporated Lee County, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers Beach	Elevated eight repetitive loss properties to date.
Elevation of Private Residences, Fort Myers Beach	\$193,095 / Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	FEMA, Town of Fort Myers Beach	FL, TC	Fort Myers Beach	Application denied by FEMA
Edison and Ford Winter Estates Wind Retrofit	\$458,709 / Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	FEMA, City of Fort Myers	TC, TH, TR	City of Fort Myers	Completed in 2012
Cape Coral Residential Construction Mitigation Program (RCMP) Grant	\$175,000/ RCMP Grant Awarded by FDEM	City of Cape Coral	TC, TR, TH	City of Cape Coral	Project initiated Sept. 2, 2014 (12-month timeframe)

### Programs Supporting Natural Resource Protection Activities

Continue current wetland coordinating/evaluation program with state and water management agencies.	\$50,000 / Unincorporated MSTU	Lee County Dept. Of Community Development Services Division, Florida DEP, South Florida WMD	FL	Unincorporated Lee County	On -going
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**Structural Projects Keeping Hazard Impact from Identified Vulnerable Areas**

North Estero Drainage Project	\$659,419 / Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	FEMA. Town of Fort Myers Beach	FL, TC	Fort Myers Beach	Project 95% complete.
Fort Myers Beach Basin-based Drainage Improvement Projects	\$350,000 / Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	FEMA, Town of Fort Myers Beach	FL,TC	Fort Myers Beach	Benefit Cost analysis completed. Construction funding available.

**Programs Supporting Emergency Service Protection Activities**

Continue current hazard warning program	General Fund/All-Hazards MSTU	Lee County, Division of Public Safety, Division of Natural Resources Management	All Hazards	Unincorporated Lee County, all cities	On-going
Increase the number of shelter spaces to house population vulnerable to natural hazards	\$2,450,000 / All-Hazards MSTU	Lee County Division of Public Safety	FL,TC, TR, FR, WF	Unincorporated Lee County, all cities	Ongoing. Annual work plan completed each year
Open cold weather shelters when forecasted temperatures fall below 40 degrees F	Program staff time	Salvation Army, Fort Myers Refuge Center	FR	Unincorporated Lee County, all cities	On-going
Identify suitable sites for temporary housing facilities	Program staff time/General Fund	Lee County, Dept of Human Services, Division of Public Safety, County Attorney's Office, Disaster Advisory Council	FL, TC, TR,	Unincorporated Lee County, all cities	On-going

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Enact Five hundred year critical facility elevation requirement	Program staff time/General Fund	Municipal community development/attorney offices	FL, TC	Unincorporated Lee County	Enacted by County
Continue to develop health and safety emergency plans supporting county comprehensive emergency management plan	Program staff time/General Fund, Unincorporated MSTU, All-Hazards MSTU	Lee County, Division of Public Safety, affected county state and municipal agencies	All Hazards	Unincorporated Lee County, all cities	As of Sep 2014, 118 healthcare facility plans are reviewed annually.
Recreation Gym Wind Retrofit, Bonita Springs	\$1,125,000 / Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	FEMA, City of Bonita Springs Public Works	TH, TR, TC	Bonita Springs	Discontinued in 2014
Public Safety Building Retrofits, Fort Myers	\$285,475/Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	FEMA, City of Fort Myers Fire and Police Departments	TH, TR, TC	Fort Myers	Completed June 2009
Gulf Coast Village Wind Retrofit, Cape Coral	\$441,371/Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	FEMA, Gulf Care, Inc.	TH, TR, TC	Cape Coral	Approved and completed in March 2007
Public Works Center Wind Retrofit, Fort Myers	\$90,000/Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	FEMA, City of Fort Myers Public Works Department	TH, TR, TC	Fort Myers	Completed June 2009
Sanibel City Hall Wind Retrofit	\$105,000/Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	FEMA, City of Sanibel	TH, TR, TC	Sanibel	Completed
Lehigh Acres Fuel Reduction Program	\$691,995 / All Hazards MSTU  \$350,000 / Division of Forestry	Florida Division of Forestry/Lee County	WF	Lehigh Acres in Unincorporated Lee County	Completed
Cape Coral Emergency Operations Center Expansion	\$1 million / All Hazards MSTU	Cape Coral	All Hazards	Cape Coral	Completed

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#### **Actions to Address Public Information Activities**

Creation of Multijurisdictional Program for Public Information	Committee and staff time	Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Estero, Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Lee County, Sanibel	FL	Lee County multijurisdictional area	On-going
Continue implementing Joint Public Information Strategy for All Hazards Plan	\$20,000 / General Fund	Lee County Division of Public Safety, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel	All Hazards	Unincorporated Lee County, all cities	On-going
Continue current map information programs	<b>\$740,202</b> / General Revenue, Unincorporated MSTU  \$316,145 / Cape Coral	Lee County Dept. Of Community Development and GIS Program  Cape Coral Information Technology Services, GIS Division	FL, TC, WF, CE,	All Lee County Communities  Cape Coral	Significant GIS updates for public access to FIRM and hazard-related info; updates to FIRM letter format and Elevation Cert access
Annually send repetitive loss property owners information on ways to reduce flood losses	\$1,000-\$1,000 per jurisdiction/ General Funds	Lee County Community Development, All Cities	FL, TC	Unincorporated Lee County, all cities	Completed annually
Conduct hazard & flood awareness workshops in repetitive loss areas, and areas subject to stormwater flooding	\$600 / General Fund	Lee County, Division of Public Safety	TC, TH, FL, TR	Unincorporated Lee County, all cities	Jan-Sep 2014 conducted 65 seminars reaching 2,903 residents
Improve participation rate in voluntary real estate disclosure program	Program staff time	Lee County, Division of Public Safety, real estate associations	FL,	Unincorporated Lee County, Fort Myers Bach, Sanibel	On-going

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Reinforce technical assistance program	\$50,000 / General Fund, Unincorporated MSTU	Lee County, Dept. Of Community Development, Dept. Of Public Works, Division of Public Safety, Building & Industrial Association	FL	Unincorporated Lee County, all cities	On-going
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**Programs or Projects Supporting Pre and Post Disaster Redevelopment and Mitigation Policies and Procedures**

Revise Lee County Post Disaster Ordinance to reflect lessons learned from recent disaster experience.	Program staff time/General Fund	Lee County Division of Public Safety	All Hazards	Unincorporated Lee County	Completed and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners- June 2007
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\* Includes \$10,105 for annual mailing of information on flood mitigation to all properties in Cape Coral’s floodplain--Cape Coral Department of Community Development, Planning Division

\*\* From annual appropriations through the US Army Corps of Engineers from Flood Control & Coastal Emergency Funds through PL 84-99 and Shore Protection Construction General

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