

**PINELLAS COUNTY**  
**LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY MEETING**  
THURSDAY JULY 31, 2014; 1:30 PM  
**TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**  
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Ste. 100, Pinellas Park

**Minutes**

1) Welcome & Introductions

Chairman, Bob Bray welcomed the committee members and guests and attendees introduced themselves.

2) Approval of Minutes June 27, 2014

Paul Cohen made the motion to adopt the minutes from June 27, 2014 and Danny Taylor seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

3) Presentation – Steve Elliot, President of Elliot Consulting Group ([www.elliott-consulting.com](http://www.elliott-consulting.com)) and Past President of the Association of Contingency Planners (ACP) of Greater Tampa Bay (<http://www.greatertampabay.acp-international.com/>). The Greater Tampa Bay Chapter of Association of Contingency Planners ("GTBACP") is a non-profit, mutual benefit association of business professionals who are responsible for, or participant in, contingency planning, disaster recovery, crisis management and/or business resumption planning. Greater Tampa Bay Chapter is an authorized operating entity of the Association of Contingency Planners. Approximately 65-70% of the large corporations in Tampa Bay are members of the ACP. The mission of the GTBACP is to provide leadership and education in contingency planning, business continuity, and disaster recovery. The GTBACP is dedicated to building a coalition of contingency planners that will:

- Promote awareness in the community of the benefits and need for contingency planning.
- Work with industry and government to assist in overall promotion and direction of contingency planning (disaster recovery) in the Tampa Bay area.

Mr. Elliot compared the public and the private worlds of disaster preparedness illustrating the similarities and the differences between the Business Continuity Planning and the Government Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plans. He indicated when he works with various business groups; they look at the internal business operations to determine what they need in order to resume operations.

They conduct a hazards analysis similar to the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans and the Local Mitigation Strategy; however, they also look at the impact of computer breakdowns, social media backlash, a malfunctioning sprinkler system, or the interruption of power and/or connectivity.

Hurricanes, for example, will afford some lead time, so clients can delineate a timeline, identify critical staffing needs and a temporary location if necessary. A fire at the facility; however, is immediate with no-warning. *If you are a business owner, you don't want to be standing watching your business burn with all of your vital records and no plan to resume operations.*

Similarly, hazardous materials (whether yours or an adjacent facility) could spark an even deadlier consequence. Active Shooter scenarios are also a big scary threat – just as they are for governments.

In response, the business is responsible for first getting their people out and to safety; then there must be someone to liaison with the first responders. Here is where there should be a synergy of planning and training. He recommends to clients that they reach out to their local responders to know what they can expect and what the responders will need to know. The business challenges; however, begin when the hoses are rolled up and the responders leave. In order to survive, they need to have a recovery plan. This includes IT consideration, succession of authority and Delegation of Authority procedures.

Re-entry after a major disaster such as a hurricane can be a challenging as well. In order to send in an advanced team to assess the damage, make immediate repairs and determine what is needed to re-open, access into the area – once it is safe – is sometimes complicated if access is restricted to residents only. Later, there may be licensing and permitting issues. As an initial part of the BCP planning process, Mr. Elliot suggested table top exercises which are extremely helpful is identifying gaps and major issues. For the most part, emergency planning is not part of normal work life for our clients. Scenario-based training and exercises are invaluable as they help clients work through the situation and identify what they need to address.

Bob Bray referenced a company in Pinellas Park which found black mold in their building and had to evacuate and re-establish operations in an alternate facility. *They didn't realize that they had actually implemented the COOP.*

Paula Cohen indicated that she was working with an insurance company who wanted access to their facility to set up a worksite for their adjusters. But they had not considered that their employees may have been seriously impacted personally and/or may not be able to make it back to the community or to the facility itself.

Paula also stated one of her major concerns is that many of her residents in Treasure Island believe they have been through a major hurricane and “it wasn't so bad”. (2004 Francis and

Jeanne, exiting storms to the north, very little flooding and only minor wind damage- no tropical storm force winds). All agreed this misconception is a huge issue in Tampa Bay and feeds the complacency in preparedness and mitigation.

Steve also indicated that in Pinellas County, we have very large corporations in particularly vulnerable areas like Feather Sound. A major storm would change the area dramatically. Many of those companies may not return which would have a significant economic impact.

Steve welcomed member to attend the next meeting of the ACP which will be held on Wednesday, August 27, 2014, at the Port of Tampa (tour). If anyone is interested in attending, they are most welcome. Please email Steve.

#### 4) Sub-Committees/Assignments

##### a. Appendix 1- Vulnerability Identification & Assessment

Brady Smith with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council gave a presentation (attached) on the Hazards and Vulnerability Analysis Update. Consistent with the 2009 LMS and the 2013 Enhanced Statewide Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), nine major hazards have been identified. Through his PowerPoint presentation (attached), he showed some of the maps he is developing to demonstrate the vulnerability from Hurricanes and Coastal Storms, Floods, Wildfire, Sinkholes, Thunderstorms and Tornadoes, Drought and Extreme Heat, Winter Storms and Freezes, Coastal Erosion, Tsunamis.

Brady indicated that FEMA's guidance recommends using the HAZUS Model to quantify the impacts. However, it will only address flooding and hurricanes hazards. There is a component of hurricane to address coastal flooding in addition to the wind, but there are some issues with the program which we are working through. HAZUS relies on scenario-based analyses, so he is focusing on the 1921 Hurricane, the last major landfall in the Tampa Bay Region.

##### b. Appendix 2 – Workgroup Membership

Dayton Saltsman indicated he is continuing to update the membership list and encourages existing members to reach out to their community stakeholders and ask them to participate. Due to time constraints, no major changes to Appendix 2 (other than membership) are recommended.

##### c. Appendix 4 – LMS Goals & Objectives

Paula Cohen stated that their committee reviewed the goals and objectives and there are no significant changes. There was some discussion about the why the technological and human-caused threats were eliminated in the final adopted 2009

LMS (recommendations from the State Division of Emergency Management) and whether the goals and objectives need to delete references to them. As some funding is allocated towards protection and mitigation based on these hazards, it may be something we will need to re-address with the State.

d. Appendix 5 – Local Programs, Policies and Capabilities

All jurisdictions should review Appendix 5 and submit any changes to local programs, policies and capabilities by August 15, 2014. They can be sent to Betti Johnson for incorporation into the document.

e. Appendix 6 – Local Departmental Responsibilities in Mitigation Implementation

All jurisdictions should review Appendix 6 for Departmental Responsibilities and submit any changes to Betti Johnson by August 15, 2014. Five communities do not have a table and need to develop and send those in as well.

f. Appendix 7 – Community Participation and Outreach

Betti Johnson stated that the draft Appendix 7 (handout) was revised based on guidance from FEMA and the Community Rating System. In addition, a link will be sent to a google doc spreadsheet where each community and partners should enter their community outreach initiatives. This would include websites, presentations to civic groups, Boards and citizens, pamphlets distributed at community events, annual mailings to repetitive loss property owners, etc. Betti is working with Tom Iovino with County Communications to capture all the countywide outreach including the Outreach Toolkit and mitigation/preparedness videos.

g. Appendix 9 – Initiatives

Bob Bray suggested all review the projects list to ensure accuracy. He also presented the ranking sheet with some modifications. The revised Ranking Sheet was approved by the committee.

h. Appendix 10 – Mitigation Accomplishments & Successes

It is also important to capture your accomplishments since 2009 even if these projects were completed with local funding.

i. Appendix 12 – Critical Facilities

Brady indicated that he is mapping the critical facilities base don the most up-to-date lists. Betti thanked Pinellas County Emergency Management for forwarding their lists of public buildings and critical emergency facilities (fire stations, EOCs, etc.)

j. Appendix 13 – Repetitive Property Loss Inventory

Efforts continue to get the most up-to-date and accurate list of RLPs by jurisdiction. Gordon Beardsley stated that he sent a request to the state on Wednesday. In addition, we are requesting maps of jurisdictions Repetitive Loss Areas to present an accurate portrait of the flood vulnerability.

k. Inclusion of CRS Floodplain Planning Process

Betti stated that the Basic Plan (handout) has been revised to reinforce the 10-Step CRS Planning Process and to ensure that the 2015 LMS provides sufficient credit towards the CRS program in those participating communities.

5) Any Other Business

Bob suggested that members check out *The Theory of Elevation Rating*, presented by the National Flood insurance Program, a new online video tutorial series.

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/bulletins/c45572#.U8gb3S58WfE.twitter>

He also recommended the **Training Workshop on Flood Mitigation for State Facilities**.

There are two training opportunities: September 4, 2014 (9-4) in Orlando and September 10, 2014 (9-4) in Tallahassee. Interested parties should email Jamie Price with the preferred date and the number of attendees, [DEM-SHMPAT@em.myflorida.com](mailto:DEM-SHMPAT@em.myflorida.com)

Betti Johnson also recommended a new EPA document, *Planning for Flood Recovery and Long-Term Resilience in Vermont: Smart Growth Approaches for Disaster Resilient Communities*. While it is focused on the State of Vermont, it is a best-practices document that has great resources and a Flood Resilience Checklist communities should check out.

(<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/vermont-sgia-final-report.pdf>)

- 6) The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm. The next meeting will be hosted by the Pinellas County Office of Emergency Management at their new facility on Ulmerton Road. We hope to see everyone there!

**NEXT PROPOSED LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY MEETING:**

**WEDNESDAY, August 20, 2014**

**1:30 pm to 3:30 pm**

**New Pinellas County EOC**

**10750 Ulmerton Rd.,**

**Largo, FL**