



**POLK COUNTY LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY
WORKING GROUP MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2024**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Mandatory Attendance and Participation – *action item*
3. LMS Document Overview and Update Process – *information item*
4. LMS Mitigation Goals and Objectives – *action item*
5. Review of Hazards for Analysis - *action item*
6. Follow-up Items
 - a. Community Survey and Community Input Ideas
 - b. Homework for LMS Participating Partners – *due September 18, 2024*

Next Working Group Meeting – September 18, 2024, at 9:30 am at Polk EOC



2. Mandatory Attendance and Participation

SUMMARY:

Participation in the planning process for the update of the Local Mitigation Strategy as well as attendance in the LMS Working Group meetings are a requirement. The Proposed Working Group meeting schedule for the LMS update is attached.

Per Florida Division of Emergency Management’s LMS Update Manual, the LMS must list the participating jurisdictions and special districts (e.g., cities, counties, school boards, hospitals, airport authorities) seeking approval and clarify what is required of the participating jurisdictions. At a minimum, each is expected to take part in the planning process and to have a mitigation action addressing hazards that could affect the jurisdiction.

Any jurisdiction that ceases participation in the LMS process will no longer be eligible for federal hazard mitigation assistance.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Add participation requirement within the Polk LMS.

<p>WORKING GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE</p> <p>LMS Working Group Meetings are 9:30 am – 11:30 am Location: Polk County EOC, 1890 Jim Keene Blvd., Winter Haven, FL 33880</p> <p>LMSWG Meeting #1: August 14, 2024</p> <p>LMSWG Meeting #2: September 18, 2024</p> <p>LMSWG Meeting #3: November 20, 2024</p> <p>LMSWG Meeting #4: January 22, 2025</p> <p>LMSWG Meeting #5: February 19, 2025</p> <p>LMSWG Meeting #6: June 4, 2025</p>

3. LMS Overview and Update Process

SUMMARY:

A local mitigation plan is the physical representation of a jurisdiction's commitment to reduce risks from natural, technological, and human-caused disasters. Polk County's 2020 Local Mitigation Strategy was adopted on August 4, 2020. Per the Florida Division of Emergency Management Eighteen Month Expiration Notification letter, the Polk County LMS will expire on **September 1, 2025**. To meet approval requirements, the draft of the 2025 Local Mitigation Strategy must be submitted to the State for review by **March 2025**. The finalized plan will be submitted for review and adoption by the Polk County Board of County Commissioners, which will occur by August 2025, followed by required adoption by each municipality in the County.

Mitigation projects on the LMS Prioritized Project List (PPL) may be eligible for funding under a variety of programs, such as the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program, Public Assistance (PA), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The project list is updated at least once a year in anticipation of funding opportunities. Adoption of the LMS is an eligibility requirement for various hazard mitigation grant programs. Participation in the LMS Working Group meetings is an additional eligibility requirement. If jurisdictions are not participating in the update process and the annual meetings, eligibility for funding may be withheld.

The Polk County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group is coordinated by Polk County Emergency Management. The Working Group is comprised of county, municipal, private sector, and community partners, including the general public, that prepare and promote local strategies and projects to reduce long-term risks to life and property from disasters. The resulting pre- and post-disaster mitigation strategies and projects are supported by a variety of state and federal programs and funding sources.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

None.



4. LMS Mitigation Goals and Objectives

SUMMARY:

As part of the LMS update, the Working Group must review and approve the mitigation goals and objectives to be included in the updated LMS. The goals and associated objectives serve to guide the Working Group's work and focus the efforts and resources to reduce hazard related losses and damages in the future. The Working Group needs to review the goals and objectives to ensure they address the current conditions and priorities in the County. In addition to the goals and objectives adopted in the 2020 Polk County LMS plan, the adopted goals and objectives from the 2023 Enhanced State Mitigation Plan are included. The Working Group will be asked to review the goals and objectives and recommend any changes for the LMS update.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Update and approve Mitigation Goals and Objectives.

2020 LMS Adopted Mitigation Goals and Objectives

TABLE VII-1: POLK COUNTY MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	
GOAL 1:	REDUCE THE LOSS OF LIFE, PROPERTY, AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC FROM THE EFFECTS OF NATURAL AND HUMAN CAUSED HAZARDS FROM ALL SOURCES, BUT ESPECIALLY HURRICANES, TORNADOES, FLOODING, OTHER SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS, CYBER ATTACKS, AND OTHER HUMAN CAUSED EVENTS.
Objective 1.1:	Encourage the protection of cultural, economic, and natural resources from potential natural and human caused hazards.
Objective 1.2:	Continue to develop the capacity to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from all hazards.
Objective 1.3:	Efficiently manage all local disasters.
Objective 1.4:	Reduce the cost of disaster response and recovery.
Objective 1.5:	Ensure new development and redevelopment complies with all applicable Federal, State, and local regulations.
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES	
1a.	Continue to engage additional local community stakeholders to participate in the LMS Working Group meetings.
1b.	Track mitigation projects by flood basin to see past, current, and future projects and compare to flooding data.
1c.	Continue to work to provide sufficient shelter space to satisfy in-County demand.
1d.	Maintain and improve existing drainage systems to regulate management of storm water runoff.
1e.	Protect the function of natural drainage features and surficial aquifer recharge areas.
1f.	Protect and preserve wetlands, floodplains, and riverine systems to reduce the County’s exposure to hazardous incidents including flooding and work to maintain economic, aesthetic, and recreational values.
1g.	Integrate mitigation into existing structures during regular maintenance and replacement cycles.
GOAL 2:	MAINTAIN A HIGH STATE OF PREPAREDNESS/COORDINATION TO MITIGATE AND RESPOND TO DISASTERS THROUGH PLANNING, EDUCATION, AND COORDINATION.
Objective 2.1:	Optimize the effective use of all available resources by establishing public/private partnerships and encouraging intergovernmental coordination and cooperation.
Objective 2.2:	Prevent and/or minimize losses from disaster events through education and regulation.

**TABLE VII-1:
POLK COUNTY MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Objective 2.3:	Continue dissemination of flood information to the public, non-profit, and private sector.
Objective 2.4:	Support programs under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act.
Objective 2.5:	Promote awareness and preparedness through the distribution of information on hazards and measures to mitigate them.
Objective 2.6:	Increase the level of coordination of mitigation management concerns, plans, and activities at the municipal, County, State, and Federal levels of governments in relation to all hazards.
Objective 2.7:	Educate the private sector about mitigation concepts and opportunities.
Objective 2.8:	Coordinate effective partnerships between County and local jurisdictions for floodplain management and stormwater drainage.
Objective 2.9:	Work with government, nonprofit, and private sector entities to identify and implement opportunities for the incorporation of mitigation concepts and information into outreach efforts.
Objective 2.10:	Inform and educate the public, nonprofit, and private sector about potential hazards and property protection measures.
Objective 2.11:	Inform and educate the public, nonprofit, and private sector about the first response to disasters to promote better disaster preparation.
Objective 2.12:	Strengthen continuity planning for local government, businesses, and community partners to avoid significant disruptions of services.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

2a.	Utilize a widespread program of general information, media coverage, and participatory involvement to enhance public mitigation and engagement.
2b.	Educate departments and agencies to ensure continuity of operations and a full integration of mitigation management functions.
2c.	Provide information and education on new and emerging mitigation methods and products for new and retrofitting construction.
2d.	Coordinate with the Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) across the County.
2e.	Host mitigation workshops to educate stakeholders and community members.
2f.	Promote mitigation measures county-wide through outreach and education.

GOAL 3: SUPPORT MITIGATION INITIATIVES AND POLICIES THAT PROTECT THE COUNTY’S CULTURE, COMMERCE, ECONOMY, TOURISM, RESIDENCES, TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, RECREATION, AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

Objective 3.1:	Support land acquisition programs that reduce or eliminate potential future losses due to natural or human caused hazards or repetitive loss and that are compatible with the protection of natural or cultural resources.
Objective 3.2:	Continue to identify potentially vulnerable areas and support smart growth and development in Polk County.

**TABLE VII-1:
POLK COUNTY MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Objective 3.3:	Support restoration and conservation of natural resources wherever possible.
Objective 3.4:	Seek mitigation opportunities that reduce economic losses and promote responsible growth.
Objective 3.5:	Regulate and prioritize the construction and/or enhance the protection of critical facilities and infrastructure.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3a.	Retrofit existing County and local facilities to withstand hazard impacts.
3b.	Participate in activities that will further the County and local government’s ability to plan for and mitigate the impacts of future vulnerability.
3c.	Adopt policies that provide development standards to promote resiliency and reduce risk.
3d.	Adopt building codes leading to building design criteria based on site-specific evolving and future risk.
3e.	Identify mitigation projects that reduce risk to vulnerable populations that are at greater risk from hazards.
3f.	Maintain or improve critical evacuation routes.
3g.	Prioritize and retrofit existing critical facilities and infrastructure through capital improvement expenditures.
3h.	Perform risk assessments for hazards, including cyber security.
3i.	Continue to invite and work with critical facility stakeholders.
3j.	Identify and track mitigation measures for existing critical facilities.
3k.	Assess alternate facilities as identified in continuity of operations plans to determine if the sites are appropriately mitigated.
3l.	Advocate property acquisition or retrofitting for repetitive loss properties.
3m.	Assist and encourage new economic development and post-disaster redevelopment through the encouragement of public-private partnerships, economic diversification, and development.

GOAL 4: PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS) FOR ALL COMMUNITIES IN POLK COUNTY.

Objective 4.1:	Incorporate measures into the LMS to help obtain uniform credit for all CRS Communities.
Objective 4.2:	Identify and track projects in the LMS to demonstrate the role of mitigation measures in reducing flood risk.

TABLE VII-1: POLK COUNTY MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	
Objective 4.3:	Provide outreach and educational opportunities for the public, nonprofit, and private sector regarding flooding risks and the CRS Program.
Objective 4.4:	Advocate property acquisition or retrofitting for repetitive loss properties.
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES	
4a.	Identify repetitive and severe repetitive loss areas.
4b.	Identify projects that will mitigate flood risk in repetitive loss areas.

2023 Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan



Goal 1

Implement an effective comprehensive statewide hazard mitigation program

- Objective 1.1:** Engage technology to continually advance and expand the statewide hazard mitigation program.
- Objective 1.2:** Support the development of comprehensive mitigation initiatives that will enhance mitigation successes and build resiliency.
- Objective 1.3:** Prioritize engagement with underserved and vulnerable populations to ensure that social equity issues are integrated into Florida's hazard mitigation program.
- Objective 1.4:** Integrate mitigation practices throughout all state plans, programs, and policies.
- Objective 1.5:** Evaluate risk to all hazard in the State of Florida to be able to leverage available mitigation funding, including HMA, FMAG, and HHPD grant programs.



Goal 2

Increase Whole Community awareness and support for hazard mitigation in Florida

- Objective 2.1:** Engage and collaborate with a broad range of stakeholders in hazard mitigation planning efforts.
- Objective 2.2:** Work with state and regional entities throughout Florida to incorporate mitigation concepts and information into their outreach efforts.
- Objective 2.3:** Educate Florida's public, private, and non-profit sectors about mitigation concepts and opportunities.
- Objective 2.4:** Support hazard mitigation research and development, with an emphasis on equitable solutions for underserved and vulnerable communities.



Goal 3

Support local and regional mitigation strategies

- Objective 3.1:** Support local mitigation strategy planning processes and maintenance.
- Objective 3.2:** Maintain up-to-date risk assessment information in coordination with local communities.
- Objective 3.3:** Support the integration of hazard mitigation concepts into other local and regional planning efforts such as comprehensive plans, local mitigation strategies, and comprehensive emergency management plans.
- Objective 3.4:** Ensure that all communities are aware of available mitigation funding opportunities and resources.
- Objective 3.5:** Promote strategic planning for climate change and sea level rise resilience at state, regional, and local levels.



Goal 4

Support mitigation initiatives and policies that protect the state's cultural, economic, and natural resources

- Objective 4.1:** Support flood reduction activities to reduce or eliminate potential future losses due to hazards while protecting natural and cultural resources.
- Objective 4.2:** Promote restoration and conservation of natural resources wherever possible.
- Objective 4.3:** Seek mitigation opportunities that reduce losses and promote responsible growth of the economy and built environment.
- Objective 4.4:** Coordinate effective partnerships between stakeholders for floodplain management.



Goal 5

Support mitigation initiatives and policies that increase Florida's climate resilience

- Objective 5.1:** Integrate climate resilience education into Florida's hazard mitigation program.
- Objective 5.2:** Increase visibility of evolving climate change and sea level rise research to further the state and local government's ability to decrease hazard vulnerability.
- Objective 5.3:** Create effective partnerships and collaborate with experts in the field of climate resilience.
- Objective 5.4:** Promote the integration of equitable climate resiliency efforts into statewide planning, initiatives, and policies, emphasizing underserved and vulnerable populations.



5. Review of Hazards

SUMMARY:

As part of the LMS update, the Working Group must review and approve the hazards to be analyzed in the in the updated LMS. The Hazard Identification section reviews a wide range of hazards, identifies those that could potentially impact the county, and provides information about how the identified hazards specifically impact the county and participating jurisdictions. The 2020 LMS included both natural and man-made hazards.

Staff will present information on the currently identified hazards and potential amendments to the hazard list for the 2025 LMS Update. Working Group Members are requested to provide input on potential hazards to be added to the LMS.

The Working Group will be asked to review the list of hazards and recommend any changes for the LMS update.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Update and approve hazards to be analyzed and integrated into the updated plan.

2020 LMS Identified Hazards and determination of Further Analysis

TABLE 4-1: INITIALLY IDENTIFIED HAZARDS AND DETERMINATION OF FURTHER ANALYSIS		
Hazard	Further Analysis Required	No Further Analysis Required
ATMOSPHERIC HAZARDS		
Extreme Temperatures	X	
Fog	X	
Hurricanes /Tropical Storms	X	
Severe Storms and Tornadoes (Hail, Lightning, and Thunderstorms)	X	
Winter Storms		X
GEOLOGIC HAZARDS		
Earthquake		X
Landslides		X
Subsidence and Sinkholes	X	
Tsunami		X
HYDROLOGIC HAZARDS		
Coastal and Riverine Erosion		X
Drought	X	
Flood	X	
Storm Surge		X
OTHER NATURAL HAZARDS		
Climate Change	X	
Sea Level Rise		X
Wildfire	X	
MAN-MADE HAZARDS		
Civil Disturbance/Terrorism		X
Cyber Attacks	X	
Dam/Levee Failure	X	
Epidemics	X	
Hazardous Material Incidents	X	
Mass Immigration/Migration		X
Nuclear/Radiological		X
Transportation Incident	X	

State of Florida 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan Identified Hazards

Natural Hazards:

- Flood
- Tropical Cyclones
- Wildfire
- Severe Thunderstorm
- Sinkholes
- Extreme Heat
- Erosion
- Winter Weather
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Tsunami

Human Caused and Technological Hazards:

- Hazardous Materials Incident
- Transportation Incident
- Agricultural Disruption
- Human Health Incident
 - Human health can be threatened by biological hazards which turn into biological incidents. There are several examples throughout this profile that cause biological incidents. A biological incident can refer to many different types of incidents, involving bacteria, viruses, or toxins, all of which can be harmful or deadly to humans and animals. These various bacteria, viruses and toxins are referred to as biological agents.
- Cyber Incident
 - Cyber incidents are becoming more common and more costly in our society. Because of this, Cyber Incidents will be profiled as a hazard to the state of Florida. The word “cyber” refers to anything that contains, is connected to, or controlled by computers and computer networks.
- Harmful Algal Bloom
- Domestic Security Incident
 - Domestic security incidents that happen throughout Florida and this profile is going to cover mass shootings, school shootings, and terrorism. However, terrorism will be our main topic throughout this profile.
- Mass Migration
- Civil Disturbance
 - According to FEMA, civil disturbance, sometimes referred to as civil unrest, is an activity such as a demonstration, riot, or strike that disrupts a community and requires intervention to maintain public safety.
- Dam Failure

- Space Weather
 - Space weather is a broad term used to describe atmospheric events that have the potential to adversely affect conditions on Earth. Space Weather events are caused by the interaction of Earth with emissions from the Sun. There are two causes of space weather events, coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and solar flares, which are different incidents that occur on the Sun. CMEs and solar flares can cause three different types of space weather events on Earth: Geomagnetic Storms, Solar Radiation Storms, Radio Blackouts.
- Radiological Incident



6a. Follow-up – Community Survey and Community Input Ideas

SUMMARY:

Part of the LMS update process includes obtaining public involvement and input. The Working Group will be asked to provide information on potential opportunities for public involvement during the update process.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discussion of public involvement and input. As events are scheduled, please submit the information to the contact below.

**Submit potential public involvement events to:
Jerri Sackett
Email: jsackett@cfrpc.org**



6b. Follow-up: Homework – due September 18, 2024

SUMMARY:

Staff will distribute the Community Profiles and Policies and Regulations pertaining to each jurisdiction and participant from the existing LMS document. Each jurisdiction and participant will need to update the information and return it by September 18, 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Submit the updated Community Profiles and Jurisdiction and Regulations by September 18, 2024, to the contact below. If there are no changes, please email the contact below.

**Submit updated Community Profiles and Jurisdiction Policies and Regulations to:
Jerri Sackett
Email: jsackett@cfrpc.org**